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IPU Conference Continues

Fourth Day of IPU Conference Reported

SK0205153791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The fourth-day sitting of the plenary session of the 85th Interparliamentary Conference took place at the People's Palace of Culture here today.

The debate on the fourth agenda item "Policies to put an end to violence against children and women" continued at the morning sitting.

It was followed by a debate on the fifth agenda item "general debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world" in the afternoon.

Delegates of national parliamentary groups and an international organization took the floor.

They said primary questions in the political, economic and social fields of the world today are to prevent war and defend peace and establish an equitable international order based on complete equality.

They expressed apprehensions over the fact that regional disputes have failed to be settled in a peaceful manner as desired by mankind and, in some cases, they extended to large-scale armed conflicts, causing tragic calamities, and the external debts of developing countries are increasing with every passing day.

They stressed the need to seek a peaceful, negotiated settlement of all disputes and provide more stable living environments for mankind.

They held that the work of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] should help meet the people's demand for independence and sovereignty and thus it should turn into work for them.

The session continues.

Inspection of DPRK Nuclear Facilities Urged

SK0305015891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0143 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang, North Korea, May 3 (YONHAP)—A subcommittee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), meeting in Pyongyang, Thursday called on North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

In a resolution targeted at North Korea, the subcommittee to adopt a draft resolution on nuclear and arms control said any nation that is a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should unconditionally sign the IAEA Nuclear Safeguards Accord.

After grueling debate, the 13-member panel adopted a resolution based primarily on drafts of Switzerland, Britain and Morocco. South Korea has insisted that Nortn Korean nuclear facilities should be open to international inspection.

ROK Delegate Urges DPRK To Accept UN Entry

SK0305061691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang, North Korea, May 3 (YONHAP)—The South Korean chief delegate to an Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] meeting in Pyongyang, urged North Korea Friday to accept South Korea's appeals for simultaneous entry in the United Nations, resumption of inter- Korean prime ministerial talks and summit talks.

"It is a matter of course for South and North Korea to join the United Nations side by side and participate in the world in peace and cooperation," Pak Chong-su, the chief delegate from Seoul told the IPU plenary session. "South Korea hopes for simultaneous joining of the U.N. but will consider unilateral joining if North Korea refuses it."

The week-long IPU general meeting runs until Saturday in the North Korean capital.

North Korea ought to resume the stalemated premiers talks immediately "if it wants to see peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula," Pak said. "Furthermore, we should develop the prime ministers' talks to a summit meeting to resolve all the problems concerning reunification."

He said he regretted that the prime ministerial talks in February in Pyongyang were cancelled as ran against the creation of a reconciliatory mood between the two sides.

The talks have not been held since the third round in December in Seoul. North Korea called off the fourth meeting, scheduled for Feb. 25-28, citing the annual South Korea-U.S. "team spirit" joint military exercise as the reason.

"In order to achieve reunification of the Korean peninsula, both sides should discard deep-rooted distrust and confrontation and seek opening and exchange and cooperation so as to develop a national community in which the entire people live well," he said.

The South Korean delegation will host a luncheon at the People's Palace of Culture for delegations from Europe and the American continent, and will attend a banquet thrown by Choe Mun-son, chairman of the People's Committee of Pyongyang City, in the evening.

The IPU Political Committee will meet Friday afternoon to adopt a resolution calling for North Korea to sign the nuclear safeguards accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

DPRK Accused of Human Rights Violations

SK0305094591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0847 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang, North Korea, May 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korean legislators attending the conference of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) in Pyongyang listened closely Friday when Rep. Pak Chong-su, head of the South Korean delegation, addressed such issues as resuming inter-Korean high level talks and entry into the United Nations in a key-note speech to a plenary session.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party lawmaker strongly urged North Korea to agree to simultaneous but separate entry into the world body.

"Pyongyang's logic that the entry of both Koreas into the United Nations would perpetuate the division has been proved wrong by the unification process of Yemen," Pak said.

He skipped mention of Korea-Soviet summit talks in mid-April, though it was in a copy of the speech given to the press, in an apparent bid not to upset North Korea.

Moving on to national unification, he said, "my government has prepared an inter-Korean economic cooperation system and fund, which will be needed in the process of unification."

After asking in English for the understanding of the audience as he would "use his mother tongue due to being in Pyongyang," Pak completed his speech in Korean.

When he expressed South Korea's desire for peaceful unification, many delegates expressed their support with applause and Jushiro Komiyama, head Japanese delegate of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, shook Pak's hand after the speech.

A stir went through the audience when Josef Hoechtl, head of the Austrian delegation, accused North Korea of human rights violations and "undemocratic aspects" in his key-note speech.

Upon reaching the podium, the ruling Socialist Party legislator said he would like to ask if democracy existed in North Korea and if the freedom of people was guaranteed. He also asked if it was true there were over 100,000 political prisoners at 12 labor camps in North Korea.

Beginning his speech, he quoted North Korean President Kim Il- song as saying in his opening address that the period of suppression had ended, and then asked the delegates if it was really finished in North Korea.

He raised his voice as he asked the IPU delegates how they could return home without confirming those things.

Bewildered by the fiery charges, a North Korean delegate made an emergency motion and asked Hoechtl to take back his remarks on the ground that IPU abstained from intervening in the internal matters of other countries.

Hoechtl defiantly continued, however, retorting that to mention human rights in a country was not intervention in internal matters for they were universal values of mankind. IPU made efforts to protect human rights in every nation, he said.

As the Austrian head delegate spoke on, there were supportive interruptions of applause. Delegates from a handful of countries such as Cuba and Cote d'Ivoire sided with North Korea's urgent motion.

Delegates Discuss Political, Economic Situation

SK0305154691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1526 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 3 (KCNA)—The 5th-day sitting of the plenary session of the 85th Interparliamentary Conference was held at the People's Palace of Culture today.

Debate on the fifth agenda item "General debate on the political, economic and social situation of the world" continued at the sitting.

Delegates of national parliamentary groups of different countries and international organisations took the floor.

They stressed that in order to prevent war and preserve world peace, the frantic arms race must be terminated, the process of disarmament be consolidated and nuclear weapons and other mass- destruction weapons be eliminated.

They said the problems of Palestine, the Middle East and regional disputes aggravating the situation of the world are problems awaiting an urgent solution for detente.

In order to settle the debt problem of Third World countries and its crisis, the outdated international economic order must be destroyed and a new one be set up and, to this end, North-South dialogue and South-South cooperation must be activated, they emphasized.

The speakers said the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] should see to it that the parliaments of all countries and international organizations make a due contribution to the practical solution to the political, economic and social problems of the world.

The session continues.

DPRK Delegate Addresses Fifth Day Session

SK0305165391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1553 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 3 (KCNA)—Pak Tong-chun, delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, spoke at the fifth-day sitting of the plenary session of the 85th Interparliamentary Conference here today.

We hope to enter the United Nations as early as possible and contribute to the activities of the internationa' community for world peace, security and cooperation, he said, and went on:

Our republic is fully qualified to be a member of the United Nations.

We cannot but link the question of U.N. membership to the cause of reunification, the supreme task task of our nation. It is our stand that the North and the South raise with the U.N. results of discussion and agreement on this question between the North and the South.

The question of of our U.N. membership is fundamentally different from that of other countries. So, we consider it good that in order to solve this question in favour of reunification, the North and the South must not enter it separately but enter it with a single nomenclature after a confederacy is realized. If they should enter it before its realization, the North and the South must have one seat in the U.N., we think.

We have got inspiration from the talk of many U.N. member nations that if the North and the South first agree on it and raise it, the U.N., too, would welcome it, Pak Tong-chun said, and continued:

We hope the North and the South of Korea will join in international organizations including the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] as a unified delegation.

Stressing that as a result of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, the large-scale nuclear war game against the North, the North-South high-level talks which were due to be held in Pyongyang this spring came to a rupture, he said it is widely known in the world that we earnestly called upon the United States and the South Korean authorities to stop the adventurous war game for at least two or three years in order to bring the inter-Korean high-level talks to a success.

We expect the South Korean authorities to solemnly declare that they would stop military actions threatening the dialogue partner, create a peaceful atmosphere of dialogue and approach dialogue with sincerity, he said.

Pointing out that the Korean people are building man-centred socialism our own way according to their own faith under the banner of the chuche idea, he emphasized that from the first days of the founding of the Republic they have amended what was unreasonable in good time and are now constantly improving and perfecting everything through the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

He said:

Ours is a stabilized country where there is none who is poorly clad and starves, there are no jobless people or beggars and all people are equally well off without any worry about food, clothing and housing, about medical treatment and education of their children. It is a country where the democratic rights and freedom of citizens on the speech, press, assembly, association and demonstration and religious belief are guaranteed substantially by the Constitution and thoroughly ensured in practice.

Referring to the system of our country where democracy and human rights are genuinely ensured, he said:

Our country is opening to the peoples of all countries who respect our sovereignty and treat us on an equal and friendly basis.

Conference Concludes; Resolutions Reported

SK0405154291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1524 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 4 (KCNA)—The 85th Inter-Parliamentary Conference which opened here on April 29 closed today, concluding the debate on the agenda items.

The need to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, to ensure the security of all states and to strengthen confidence-building measures, the policies to put an end to violence against children and women and the political, economic and social situation of the world and other issues were sincerely discussed at the conference attended by nearly 100 delegations and delegates from member nations of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and other countries and regional and international organizations.

Prior to the closing ceremony, a plenary session was held at the People's Palace of Culture.

Article 5.2 of the statutes of the IPU was amended and some more members of the Executive Committee were elected.

The session heard reports on the work of the subcommittees and on the matters agreed upon at the subcommittees.

The resolutions "Need To Prevent the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, To Ensure the Security of All States and To Strengthen Confidence-Building Measures in the Context of the Process of Disarmament," "Policies To Put an End to Violence Against Children and Women" and "Role of Parliaments in Supporting Efforts To Vitalize Peace Actions in the Near and Middle East, Including the Gulf" were adopted at the session.

The closing session began after the successful conclusion of the debate on the agenda items.

Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, chairman of the DPRK parliamentary group and president of the 85th conference of the IPU, made a closing address.

DPRK Officials Host Banquet for Delegates

SK0305154891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1530 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 3 (KCNA)—Choe Mun-son, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, hosted a banquet this evening at the People's Palace of Culture for the participants of the 85th Inter-parliamentary Conference [IPC].

Present there on invitation were IPC President Daouda Sow, IPU Secretary General Pierre Cornillon and members of the Executive Committee of the IPU [Interparliamentary Union], and delegations and delegates of different countries and regional and international organisations.

Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the parliamentary group of the DPRK, and the members of the delegation of the DPRK parliamentary group and other officials concerned were also present.

The banquet took place in a friendly atmosphere.

German Deputies Boycott Kim Il-song Reception

LD0405130991 Hamburg DPA in German 1130 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Beijing (DPA)—Bundestag deputies at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) boycotted a reception in

Pyongyang given by North Korean head of state Kim Il-song (79). As Bonn SPD [Social Democratic Party] Deputy Uwe Holtz told DPA in Beijing today after his return from communist-led North Korea, the German delegates intended to give a "political signal." Kim Il-song is a "dictator that could hardly be worse whose hand we did not want to shake."

Earlier Holtz and Lenin Fischer (CSU) [Christian Social Union], had pilloried the lack of freedom and the dictatorial regime in North Korea at the plenary debate of the IPU spring meeting. Holtz referred to Western estimates of more than 100,000 political prisoners in North Korea.

Holtz spoke of "one of the worst dictatorships" and an incredible "leadership cult" surrounding Kim Il-song which "we did not want to help support." The IPU meeting, to which parliamentarians from all parts of the world traveled to North Korea for the first time, ended today after a week.

Japanese, ROK Delegates Agree on Marathon

SK0405012191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang, North Kroea, May 4 (YONHAP)—The Japanese and South Korean chief delegates to the 85th meeting of the Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU) have agreed in principle to promote a marathon race between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Pak Chong-su of South Korea and Jushiro Komiyama of Japan agreed Friday to co-organize the relay race, in which they hope athletes from South and North Korea, Japan and China will run the 220 kilometers (136 miles) from one capital to the other across the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone dividing South and North Korea.

Komiyama sent letters to Pak and to the chief delegates of North Korea and China saying that he had suggested the idea of the race to North Korean President Kim Il-song on Thursday and received an affirmative response.

The Japanese politician said in the letter that such a relay would attract interest not only in both Koreas but around the world and that technical problems could be worked out by the four countries.

Pak told Komiyama he thought it was conducive to inter-Korean exchange and national reunification and that he would positively promote the race.

The response of the Chinese side was not known.

Daily: North Reporters Show Interest in South

SK2804010391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Apr 91 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket"]

[Text] Panmunjom—North Korean reporters expressed keen interest in major recent developments in South Korea yesterday while covering the border-crossing of the South Korean delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference.

Their utmost curiosity was for news about student activist Yim Su-kyong who visited Pyongyang and attended the World Festival of Youth and Students in the North Korean capital in 1989. She is now serving a prison term for her unauthorized visit.

In contrast, it seemed that they were not aware of the report that a Swiss medical team had been invited to treat their "Great Leader" Kim Il-song for an irregular heartbeat.

A reporter from North Korean organ, "MINJU CHOSON," denounced South Korean Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku's remarks hinting at military action against nuclear facilities under construction in North Korea.

"We take it very seriously. It is like declaring war while we have no intention to invade the South," said the reporter. He insinuated that the United States might be behind the South Korean intimidation against the North.

Another reporter from "NODONG CHONGNYON" wondered about the direction of the revision of the National Security Law during the on-going parliamentary session in the South and the students' response to it.

The reporter also questioned why news about student activist Yim Su-kyong is not carried in the South Korean media. Did anything grave happen to her?" he asked.

Asked if they were told about the invitation of Swiss cardiologists to treat Kim Il-song, North Korean reporters did not give a clear-cut answer. Instead, a reporter emphasized that "Great Leader" Kim Il-song was very healthy, by saying he reviewed the honor guard at a ceremony in celebration of the anniversary of the founding of North Korean air force Friday.

Japan

Kaifu Returns Home From ASEAN Tour

OW0605080291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0724 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu returned home Monday afternoon from his 10-day, five-nation Southeast Asian swing, in which he sought Asian leaders' endorsement for Tokyo's readiness to take a higher political profile internationally.

During the tour, Kaifu paid official visits to five of the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines. He visited the sixth member, Indonesia, in May last year.

In a major policy speech in Singapore that sought to define Japan's willingness to play an increasingly active role on the world stage, Kaifu tried to appease concerns of what critics call a sign of reviving Japanese militarism—the deployment of a group of minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

The leaders of all five nations approved the deployment of the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) minesweepers as a sign of Japan's readiness to contribute to the joint security efforts in the international community.

In a part of the speech that local papers said touched the hearts of the victims of Japan's wartime atrocities, Kaifu vowed that Japan will never repeat its bid to dominate Asia with military force and threats.

Kaifu expressed "deep contrition about my nation's actions that inflicted unbearable plights and sorrows to Asian and Pacific nations and regions." He pledged to back up the words by inserting precise accounts of wartime aggression in history textbooks.

In Bangkok, Kaifu met with representatives of Cambodia's resistance factions as part of Japan's increasingly active peace- broker role. He urged them to respect a temporary ceasefire by the factions and the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government.

Kaifu Cautious About Extraordinary Diet Session

OW0605125691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Monday remained cautious about convening an extraordinary Diet session at an early date to discuss political reform, the main domestic issue, political sources said.

In a meeting with Keizo Obuchi, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), at the prime minister's official residence, Kaifu said the first urgent task is to work out a detailed draft for political reform, and remained cautious about calling a Diet session at an early date, party officials said.

Kaifu returned home earlier in the day from his 10-day Southeast Asian tour which took him to Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines.

Senior LDP officials, including Masayoshi Ito, head of the party's task force on political reform, have called for an early convening of an extra Diet session to debate political reform, including an electoral reform plan to introduce single-seat constituencies for the powerful House of Representatives.

The current regular Diet session is scheduled to end on Wednesday.

Obuchi told Kaifu that he will meet with his counterparts from two centrist opposition parties, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party, on Wednesday to discuss establishment of a new organization to cooperate with United Nations peacekeeping operations, the party officials said.

The three parties agreed last November to set up the body after the government-sponsored bill aimed at sending noncombat members of the Self-Defense Forces abroad was scrapped because of strong opposition from the opposition camp and the public.

After the talks with Kaifu, Obuchi suggested to reporters that Kaifu, who also serves as LDP president, will soon make a political decision on whether to ask two former prime ministers, Yasuhiro Nakasone and Noboru Takeshita, to assume posts as the party's senior advisors.

Nakasone was readmitted to the LDP in late April nearly two years after he left the party after being implicated in the Recruit bribery scandal.

Takeshita declined an offer to assume the position, customarily offered to former prime ministers, after he resigned as prime minister in June 1989 with the scandal eating away at the party's credibility.

Officials Cite Gorbachev on Islands Issue

OW0605050291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0451 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Moscow, May 5 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Sunday told former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe that it will take a long time to settle the long-standing Northern Territories issue, Japanese officials said.

The Kremlin leader was quoted as saying, "the politicians of both countries should start traversing a long way to establish a new form of Soviet-Japan relations," the officials said.

Gorbachev, however, also said: "I firmly believe that my visit to Japan will open the way for both nations to make headway toward reaching a solution in all sorts of issues negotiated in Tokyo."

Watanbe, a ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] faction leader and former chairman of the LDP Policy

Affairs Council, said he regretted that the joint communique, issued at the end of Gorbachev's April 16-19 visit to Japan, failed to reconfirm the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration.

The 1956 declaration, which provided for the transfer to Japan of Shikotan island and the Habomai group, seized by the Red Army at the end of World War II, restored diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Gorbachev is reported to have said: "It is a fact that both nations failed to accomplish a rapid progress (over the territorial dispute). A disagreement is still underway over the contents of the dialogue," the officials said.

During six rounds of summit talks with Gorbachev, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called on the Kremlin leader to reaffirm the Soviet Union's territorial obligations under the 1956 declaration.

The Soviet leader also said Moscow is considering setting up a Soviet-Japan task force to iron out differences in the dispute.

Further on Trade Minister's U.S. Visit

OW0405043791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] New York, May 3 KYODO—Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao said Friday he opposes an Asian trading bloc that excludes the United States.

"The idea of an Asian economy without the U.S. is inconceivable to me," Nakao said in a speech. "I definitely will not agree to the formation of any closed economic grouping."

He was referring to Malaysia's proposal for an all-Asian East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG) which would not include countries such as the U.S., Canada, and Australia.

Nakao, however, said some Asian countries harbor the suspicion that the U.S. is no longer interested in Asian affairs.

"I do note that behind the measure of support that this EAEG concept has received in Asia is a strong sense of unease among some Asian countries that the U.S. may have lost interest in Asia as it becomes inward-looking," Nakao said in the speech to the Japan Society of New York.

Nakao flew into New York Friday after talks with Vice President Dan Quayle, Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, Trade Representative Carla Hills, and other senior U.S. officials and legislators Thursday.

During his speech, he said the alleged American perception of Japan as "a selfish country" is his biggest cause of concern.

"I wonder how many of you know that Japan even raised taxes in order to contribute to the coalition forces," Nakao said.

Also in the speech, he said Japan supports the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) approach for trade and economic expansion in the region.

APEC groups Japan, the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, and the six-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Nakao called on the U.S. to revitalize its economy by reducing the budget deficit, changing short-term corporate behavior, improving the product-liability system, and adopting the metric system.

"As a politician, I know that many of these objectives are politically and socially difficult to achieve," he said. "But I believe at least some of them deserve to be pursued with greater vigor."

Foreign, Finance Ministers Return Home

OW0605113291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 (KYODO)—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto returned home from their overseas trips Monday evening after attending a two-day Japan- Australia ministerial meeting in Canberra last week.

Nakayama also visited New Zealand prior to his visit to Australia.

Hashimoto earlier visited Vancouver, Canada, to attend an annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and then joined a series of international financial meetings in Washington, including those of the Group of Seven (G-7) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Bank Governor Remarks on U.S. Credit Policy

OW0305133991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 3 (KYODO)—The recent cut in the U.S. key interest rate will not directly affect Japan's monetary policy, Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Friday.

At a press conference upon his return from the United States, Mieno said there will be no change in Japan's current tight monetary policy, which he said is in line with the aims embodied in the statement issued after Sunday's Group of Seven (G-7) talks in Washington.

He reiterated that inflationary pressure remains persistent and the current slowdown in economic growth is rather more favorable than the extremely high expansion so far.

He also said there was no request for a concerted easing in discount rates at the G-7 meeting.

The United States cut its official rate by 0.5 percentage point to 5.5 percent on Tuesday because of its own domestic conditions, the Central Bank governor said.

He said the move seemed reasonable for the U.S., taking into consideration the continuing economic stagnation there and the fading of inflationary pressure.

Mieno said he felt that the euphoria in the U.S. following the Persian Gulf war victory has been dampened by the release of worse- than-expected economic data, and that the U.S. Federal Reserve Board fears U.S. public sentiment could worsen unless the economy recovers by mid-year.

Asked about the G-7 statement, Mieno said he does not think it attaches greater importance to economic growth than to price stability, adding that price stability and economic growth are not in a "trade-off" relationship.

He said the point is that each industrial nation take measures appropriate to its own domestic conditions, aiming at sustained growth with price stability.

Speaking of Japan's real interest rates, Mieno said they are "not especially high." There is no sense in simply comparing real interest rates among nations, he said.

Stressing that the nation's monetary policy should be steered through taking account of all factors both at home and abroad, Mieno said a seeming downward trend in domestic land prices was not enough to warrant a relaxation of the grip on credit. But land prices should continue to be carefully watched, he added.

Asked whether the G-7 meeting accepted current foreign exchange levels, Mieno said only that each nation hopes its currency remains stable and reflects its own fundamentals.

Parliamentarians To Visit Pyongyang 21-25 Jul

OW0605131091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KYODO)—A delegation of Japanese parliamentarians will visit North Korea from July 21 through 25, a Japanese Diet member said Monday.

Yuzuru Shimazaki, a Social Democratic Party member of the House of Representatives, said the delegation will consist of some 30 members belonging to a Parliamentarians' League which promotes friendly relations with North Korea and more than 200 prefectural assembly members across the nation.

The delegation will also make a rare direct flight from Tokyo to Pyongyang, Shimazaki said.

In talks with Japanese Diet members at the recent Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Pyongyang, North Korean leader Kim Il-song expressed his readiness to accept the delegation.

Shimazaki was among the members on hand at the IPU meeting which ended a six-day session on Saturday.

Mitsubishi, Volvo Agree on Joint Venture

OW0305134191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1252 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 3 (KYODO)—Mitsubishi Motors Corp., Swedish Automaker AB Volvo, and the Netherlands Government signed a prospectus on Friday to start a joint venture in 1993 to produce small passenger cars, Mitsubishi officials said.

Yuichi Nakamura, president of Mitsubishi Motors, Lennart Jeansson, president of Volvo, and Jacobus Andriessen, the Netherlands' finance minister, signed the document in The Hague, the officials said.

Mitsubishi Motors was seeking the joint venture to make substantial progress in realizing Mitsubishi's longstanding wish to have a production base in the European Community (EC).

Since this is the first Japanese passenger car production operation in an EC nation on the continent, the business would attract considerable attention.

The joint venture will use Volvo's Dutch assembly plant, Volvo Car BV, to produce compact cars. Initial production will be about 220,000 cars annually and they will be sold by both Volvo and Mitsubishi outlets, the officials said.

Originally, the Dutch Government put up 70 percent of Volvo car's capital, and Volvo put up 30 percent. The capital now will be reallocated equally by the three partners, the officials said.

North Korea

Kim Chong-il Visit to China Reported Confirmed

OW0405120991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1039 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang, May 4 KYODO—Kim Chong-il, the eldest son and heir-apparent of North Korean President Kim Il-song, will pay a visit to China shortly, a senior North Korean diplomat said Saturday.

Kang Sok-chu, North Korea's first vice foreign minister, confirmed Kim's plans for a China trip in a meeting with foreign reporters Saturday.

Kang said he does not know exactly when Kim will make the trip to China, his first in eight years, but said he "would not mind" if the visit is described as taking place shortly.

There has been speculation in Beijing of an impending trip to China by the younger Kim, but Chinese officials have refused to confirm it.

The objective of the visit is apparently to seek support from China, North Korea's closest ally, for Pyongyang's stand on Korean membership in the United Nations.

South Korea has said it plans to apply for a U.N. seat on its own this fall if Pyongyang refuses to go along with Seoul's proposal for simultaneous but separate entry into the world body.

North Korea has criticized Seoul's bid as an attempt to perpetuate the division of the Korean peninsula.

China, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, has the power to veto South Korea's bid for U.N. membership.

Kim Chong-il's forthcoming visit would mark his debut in international diplomacy, a field that has been primarily his father's responsibility.

The younger Kim, who holds the position of secretary of the ruling Korean Workers Party, has been primarily involved in domestic affairs.

He made his first trip to China, in 1983, in a personal capacity.

Reportage on Visit of PRC's Li Peng Continues

Officials Host Banquet for Li Peng

SK0305153491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1523 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 3 (KCNA)—The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arranged a banquet at the Moknan Pavilion this evening in honour of Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, on an official goodwill visit to Korea.

Premier Li Peng and his suite members, officials of the Chinese Embassy and Chinese guests staying here were invited to the banquet.

Present there were Premier Yon Hyong-muk, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang, Vice-Premiers Hong Song-nam, Kim Pok-sin, Kang Hui-won, Kim Tal-hyon and Chang Chol, and officials concerned and DPRK Ambassador to PRC Chu Chang-chun.

Premiers Yon Hyong-muk and Li Peng made speeches at the banquet which proceeded in an atmosphere overflowing with friendly feelings.

A performance was given there by artistes in Pyongyang.

Yon Hyong-muk Gives Banquet Speech

SK0405050991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 3 May 91

[Speech by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, at a banquet in honor of Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council, hosted by the DPRK Government at Mongnangwan in Pyongyang on 3 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Premier Li Peng, valuable Chinese guests, and comrades:

We find it joyous to sit together and exchange comradely friendship and fraternal amity with the Chinese comrades who have come to visit us, bringing the Chinese people's friendliness toward the Korean people. Availing myself of this joyful occasion of meeting with the Chinese comrades, I once again warmly welcome the official goodwill visit to Korea of Comrade Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council and a close friend of the Korean people, and of his wife and his company.

The party and state leaders of our two countries have open-mindedly exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, traditionally transcending diplomatic custom and practices, through their frequent mutual visits.

In particular, the significant meetings in recent years between the leaders of the two countries were historical events that have greatly contributed to smashing the imperialists' strategy of peaceful transition and to defending the banner of socialism under the present complicated situation, and that have energetically demonstrated once again before the world the invincible friendship and solidarity between Korea and China.

Bonds of friendship and solidarity between the people of Korea and China have now become all the more solid with each passing day, in conformity with the desire of the two people. This is because the friendly relations between the Korean and Chinese people are based on the particular intimacy established between the great leader of our people, Comrade Kim Il-song, and the veteran revolutionary leaders of China, and because they were forged in blood in a protracted joint struggle.

As the leaders of the two countries have always stressed, relations between the two countries are not the ordinary relations which exist between nations, but are particular relations of friendship.

Adorning the history of Korean-Chinese friendship are the countless heartwarming occasions when the revolutionary amity was deepened by the shedding of blood in the course of jointly braving the difficulties in our joint struggle for victory of the socialist cause against our common enemies.

True friends are to be proved in ordeals, and true friendship is to be tested through a long history of difficulties. Friendship between Korea and China is friendship that can be seen only between true friends, and it has already been proved through life.

To strengthen and develop Korea-China friendship is the unshakable will which has struck its deep roots into the minds of the two people and into the rivers and mountains of the two countries.

The Republic's Government and our people are deeply satisfied over the fact that the traditional friendship between Korea and China is blossoming and developing day by day, and they are firmly resolved to consolidate and develop these friendly relations from generation to generation.

The Chinese people are now registering great achievements in the effort to build socialism with Chinese characteristics by consolidating the political phase of stability and unity and by maintaining one center and two main posts under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China with respected Comrade Jiang Zemin at its core.

The 10-year plan for developing the national economy and society, and the eighth five-year program adopted in the 4th session of the 7th National People's Congress of the PRC, which was held recently in Beijing, have unfurled a new and brilliant vista before the Chinese people, planting in their hearts a faith in the future victory and a revolutionary rosy view.

The PRC has greatly contributed to the cause of peace in Asia and the rest of the world by steadily pursuing a sovereign, independent, and peaceful foreign policy, and its international standing is rising day by day.

We sincerely wish the Chinese people great success in their future struggle to build a socialist power—democratic, civilized, and modern—under the correct leadership of the CPC. At the same time, we extend full support and solidarity to the Chinese Government and people in their efforts to reunify the country under the formula of peaceful reunification, one country, and two systems.

Singlemindedly united around the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, our people are now accelerating the building of our style of socialism and are tenaciously struggling to promote national reunification.

It is our people's unanimous will to make the nineties the decade of reunification. The efforts of the Republic's Government and people to ensure a durable peace in Korea and achieve national reunification have encountered a vicious challenge by separatists at home and abroad.

The South Korean authorities, in defiance of our repeated advice and demand, staged the Team Spirit joint military exercises together with the United States against us this year, bringing North-South high-level talks arranged with so much efforts to a head and rendering the situation on the Korean peninsula extremely strained.

Recently, the person holding the office of South Korea's defense minister, during an official occasion, cried about the nonexistent nuclear facilities of the North and made outrageous remarks threatening a preemptive strike on us with their armed forces. This clearly proves that they do not want peace or reunification of Korea but seek only war and division.

Our people will make every possible effort to thwart the antipeace, antireunification moves of the separatists and to reunify the country through confederation based on one nation and one state, two systems and two governments.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express deep thanks once again to the Chinese party, Government, and people for their full support and solidarity for our socialist construction and for our cause of national reunification.

The Korean and Chinese people will, as in the past so in the future, continue vigorously struggling for the victory of the socialist cause, jointly countering the imperialists trying to destroy socialism.

Availing myself of this meaningful occasion overflowing with comradely friendliness and revolutionary amity, I propose to toast to the militant friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Korea and China that will keep blossoming forever from generation to generation to come. To the long life and good health of the esteemed Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Yang Shangkun; to the long life and good health of the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song; to the long life and good health of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il; to the good health of the esteemed premier Comrade Li Peng and his wife; and to the good health of comrades who are here with us.

Li Peng Gives Banquet Speech

SK0405053591 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 3 May 91

[Speech by Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council, at a banquet given by the DPRK Government in Mongnangwan in Pyongyang on 3 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Respected Comrade Premier and Madam Yon Hyong-muk, respected comrades and guiding cadres of the Korean party and government:

I am very pleased to make an official goodwill visit to your beautiful country upon the invitation of Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, at this beautiful season when all kinds of flowers are in full bloom and the mild spring wind is fragrant.

As soon as we arrived in Pyongyang, we received a warm [yolyolhan] welcome from Comrade and Madam Yon Hyong-muk, many comrades and guiding cadres of the Korean Government, and citizens of Pyongyang.

Comrade Premier Yon Hyong-muk arranged a splendid banquet this evening in welcome of us and made an address full of feelings of deep intimacy. We are greatly moved by this.

On behalf of my wife and the Chinese comrades who came with me, I extend my sincere thanks to the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the Korean Government, and Comrade and Madam Yon Hyong-muk.

At the same time, availing myself of this opportunity, and representing the Chinese party, government, and people, I express lofty respect and extend warm greetings to the WPK, the Korean Government, and the Korean people.

I have had the honor of visiting Korea many times. When I visited your country in 1985, at the head of a Chinese party and government delegation, I received a warm welcome from guiding cadres of the Korean party and government and from the Korean people. This is still fresh in my memory.

I am feeling a particular intimacy as I visit Korea after six years. Korea is a heroic country that stands imposingly in Eastern Asia, and the Korean people are a people with glorious revolutionary traditions.

Over the past four decades, the industrious and valiant Korean people, under the wise leadership of the great leader President Kim Il-song and of the WPK, have invariably adhered to the road of socialism and have maintained independence, sovereignty, and self- reliance, thereby registering big successes in the socialist revolution and in construction.

Today the Korean people are vigorously striving to attain the vast goals of the Third Seven-Year Plan for the development of the national economy. Korea is endeavoring to develop friendly relations with the peoples of many countries; is pursuing a foreign policy of independence, friendship, and peace; and is greatly contributing to defending peace and stability in Asia and the rest of the world.

The Chinese people warmly congratulate the Korean people on their shining successes and sincerely wish them fresher, greater success in the accomplishment of the cause of building socialism.

Comrades! The Communist Party, government, and people of China consistently pay deep attention to the Korean people's cause of independent and peaceful reunification and invariably support the strenuous efforts of the Korean party and government toward this end.

We are pleased that affirmative changes have taken place in recent years in the situation on the Korean peninsula, and that the trend of detente is continuously developing. With the initiative of the North side of Korea last year, the two sides of the North and the South of Korea held high-level talks for the first time in 45 years, and exchanges in the domains of sports and art effected a desirous advance.

In his New Year address this year, President Kim Il-song clarified that the question of Korean reunification should be solved through confederation based on one nation and one state, two systems and two governments.

The Chinese party and government, highly appraising all reasonable calls and proposals put forward by the Korean party and government for the peaceful reunification of the nation, recognize that the question of Korean reunification should be solved through dialogue and negotiations between the two sides of the North and the South of Korea without interference of outside forces.

The Chinese party, government, and people will, in the future as in the past, continuously support the just cause of the fraternal Korean people for independent and peaceful reunification.

A serious change is taking place in the international situation. Although U.S.-Soviet relations have been eased and the degree of military confrontation weakened, the present-day world is not yet stabilized. Hegemonism and power politics still remain, new regional clashes may break out, and the contradiction between North and South is becoming more distinct each day. As a result, a broad range of developing countries face a graver challenge.

The 1990's are a key period for mankind to advance toward the 21st century. The people of all countries are paying more attention to establishing a new international political and economic order.

We hold that in order to make things conducive to achieving lasting peace in the world, and promoting common development of all countries, it is necessary to establish a new international order on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence which outline the most basic norms governing international relations.

Comrades, the domestic situation of China is stable politically and socially, and has developed economically. The fourth session of the 7th National People's Congress of the PRC, which was held some time ago, adopted programs of the 10-year plan for development of national economy and society in our country and of the Eighth Five-Year Plan. This shows that socialist modernization construction in our country entered a new stage of development.

In the 1980's in our country, great successes were attained in the course of building socialism characteristic of China, and thus the first strategic goal for socialist modernization construction was achieved.

In the 1990's, the Chinese people will energetically strive to beat the second strategic goal for socialist modernization construction, unswervingly maintaining the four cardinal principles and the policy of reform and opening to the outside world. China will constantly pursue the independent and sovereign, peaceful diplomatic policy; will develop relations of friendship and cooperation with other countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence; and will make strenuous efforts to defend global peace and accelerate the common development of other countries.

China and Korea are close neighbors whose mountains and rivers are connected with each other. It is an unshakable policy of the Chinese party and government to constantly consolidate and develop friendship and unity between our two parties, two countries, and two people of China and Korea. The leaders of our two parties and two countries have steadily consolidated and developed friendly and cooperative relations between China and Korea, frequently visiting each other like calling at kinsmen's homes.

The visit of Comrade Premier Yon Hyong-muk to our country in November last year attained satisfactory [wonmanhan] success.

I am convinced that the unity, friendship, and cooperation between China and Korea will be further developed through my current visit to your country.

I now propose a toast to the great friendship and unity between our two parties, two countries, and two people of China and Korea; to prosperity and development of the DPRK; to the good health and long life of Comrade President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people and a close friend of the Chinese people; to the good health of respected Comrade secretary Kim Chong-il; to the good health of respected Comrade Premier and Madam Yon Hyong-muk; to the good health of many respected guiding cadres of Korea; and to the good health of Korean comrades and Chinese comrades present here.

Kim Il-song Receives Li Peng

SK0405095691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0900 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has received Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the PRC.

Today, the great leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song received Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the PRC, who is on an official goodwill visit to our country.

Present on this occasion along with Comrade Li Peng were Luo Gan, secretary general of the State Council of the PRC; Chi Haotian, chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army; Huang Yicheng, minister of energy; Li Lanqing, minister of foreign economic relations and trade; Xu Ruixin, deputy director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee; Xu Dunxin, vice minister of foreign affairs; Zhu Shanqing, deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee; Zheng Yi, the PRC's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country; and other suite members.

Also present on this occasion were Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of people's Armed Forces; Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, vice premier of the Administration Council, and minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chief of general staff of the Korean People's Army; Comrade Kim Yong-sun, member of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; and Comrade Chu Chang-chun, member of the WPK Central Committee and our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song held a conversation with Premier Li Peng in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Premier Li Peng gave gifts to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Today, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song threw a luncheon for Premier Li Peng and his entourage.

Li Peng Visits May Day Stadium

SK0605023691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] This afternoon, Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the PRC, and his entourage, who are on an official goodwill visit to our country, visited May Day Stadium, the Mansudae Art Studio, and the Mangyongdae Children's Palace.

At each place, slogans reading "We enthusiastically welcome Comrade Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the PRC," "Hurrah to the invincible military friendship and unity which is of blood relations between the peoples of Korea and China," and "Let us succeed and develop the Korea-China friendship generation after generation," were posted on the walls.

The guests were accompanied by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council of the DPRK; Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon; Yi Cha-pang, chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee; Kim Yang-kon, deputy director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea; Kim Kwang-chin, vice minister of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces; Cha Pong-chu, vice minister of the Foreign Ministry; and Chu Chang-chun, our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the PRC.

The guests first visited the May Day Stadium. When the guests arrived at the entrance of the stadium, a large number of employees of the May Day Stadium waved miniature flags of the two countries along with bundles of flowers and enthusiastically welcomed the guests while giving shouts of joy, "Friendship between Korea and China!"

A female employee gave a bouquet to Premier Li Peng. The guests listened to how the large-scale stadium was built, which is situated on the foot of the scenic Taedong River and which seats 150,000 people, and looked around the inside of the stadium.

Premier Li Peng wrote in the guest book about the "crystal of wisdom and creativity."

Next, the guests visited the Mansudae Art Studio. Amid the sound of congratulatory music when the guests arrived at the Mansudae Art Studio, a large number of employees waved miniature flags of the two countries along with bundles of flowers and enthusiastically welcomed the guests.

A female employee gave a bouquet to Premier Li Peng. After the guests were briefed on the history of the Mansudae Art Studio which was transformed into a comprehensive creative base under the wise leadership of our party, the guests looked over the various work rooms and art gallery with keen interest.

Premier Li Peng wrote in the guest book that he hopes that Korea's art work develops continuously, and then, souvenirs were exchanged.

Next, the guests visited the Mangyongdae Children's Palace. As soon as the guests arrived at the palace, thousands of youths and students enthusiastically welcomed the guests with cheers and by waving miniature flags of the two countries along with bunches of flowers.

The guests were welcomed by Ham Un-kon, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, and responsible functionaries of the palace.

When Premier Li Peng entered the palace the youths and students carried out a welcoming ceremony, presented him with a bouquet of flowers, and tied a juvenile corps neckerchief around his neck.

The guests listened to the explanation of how the palace was magnificently maintained as an extracurricular activity base amid the love of our party, so that the youths and students combined with knowledge, virtue, and good health, can be fostered to be reliable successors of the chuche revolutionary cause. Then the guests looked over the swimming pool and other circle rooms.

The guests also visited its theater and saw a performance of the members of the art circle. Premier Li Peng received creative works made by the circle members.

Premier Li Peng wrote in the guest book saying that Korea's youths are the hope of the future and presented a souvenir.

Li Peng Meets With Korean Cadres

SK0405104991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 4 (KCNA)—Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Peng who is on an official goodwill visit to Korea today met with Korean cadres at the guest house.

Present were Vice-premiers Hong Song-nam, Kim Pok-sin, Kang Hui-won and Chang Chol.

Entourage of the premier and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi were on hand.

The premier had a friendly talk with the Korean cadres.

Li Peng Attends Performance

SK0405153191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1521 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 4 (KCNA)—A music and dance performance was given by artistes in Pyongyang at the Mansudae Art Theatre this evening in honour of Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, on an official goodwill visit to Korea.

Premier Li Peng and his suite members, officials of the Chinese Embassy and Chinese guests staying here were invited to the performance.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk, Vice-premiers Kim Tal-hyon and Chang Chol, officials concerned and working people in the city appreciated the performance together with the guests.

Colourful numbers including Korean and Chinese songs and dances were acclaimed by the audience for their high ideological and artistic value.

At the end of the performance Premier Li Peng, in company with Premier Yon Hyong-muk, mounted on the stage and presented a basket of flowers to the performers, congratulating them on their successful performance and had his picture taken with them.

Li Peng Visits Kangwon Province

SK0605060791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0550 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, visited Kangwon Province Sunday.

When the train carrying the goodwill envoy of the fraternal Chinese people pulled in the Wonsan Railway Station, more than 10,000 people warmly welcomed the guests, raising cheers and waving miniature flages of the two countries and bunches of flowers.

His suite members went with Premier Li Peng.

The guests were accompanied by Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon and officials concerned.

They were met at the railway station by Yim Hyong-ku, chief secretary of the Kangwon provincial party committee and chairman of the Kangwon Provincial People's Committee, Han Yong-nam, chairman of the Kangwon Provincial Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, and other officials concerned.

Premier Li Peng and his party visited scenic spot Mt. Kumgang and took a rest on Lake Samil.

They called at the Huang Chiguang Senior Middle School in Kosong County and the Chonsam cooperative farm in Anbyon County.

Premier Li Peng was presented with a souvenir in the province.

Visit to West Sea Barrage 6 May

SK0605113191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the Peoples Republic of China, on an official goodwill visit to Korea, visited the West Sea barrage today.

The suite members went there with the premier.

The guests were accompanied by Premier Yon Hyong-muk, Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon, officials concerned and Korean Ambassador e.p. to China Chu Chang-chun.

When the friendship envoys of the fraternal Chinese people arrived at the barrage, a large number of working people warmly welcomed them, waving miniature flags of the two countries and bunches of flowers.

Being briefed on the fact that People's Army soldiers and builders under the wise leadership of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the party successfully built the world's standard barrage by damming off 8 kilometres of the rough sea in a short span of time, they mounted an observation platform to command a bird's-eye view of the barrage and expressed deep admiration at its splendid appearance.

Yon Hyong-muk Calls on Li Peng

SK0605112991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—Premier Yon Hyong-muk of the DPRK Administration Council called on Premier Li Peng of the State Council of China on an official goodwill visit to our country today at the guest house.

On hand were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Choe Kwang, chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon, officials concerned and DPRK Ambassador to China Chu Chang-chun.

A friendly talk proceeded on the occasion.

Officials Say Farewell at Airport

SK0605113691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, left here today by special plane after concluding his successful 4-day official goodwill visit to our country at the invitation of Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK.

The guests were seen off at the airport by Premier Yon Hyong-muk, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, chief of general staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang, Vice-Premiers Hong Song-nam, Kim Pok-sin, Kang Hui-won, Kim Tal-hyon and Chang Chol.

The airport and streets of the capital city were in a farewell atmosphere.

Tens of thousands of working people and school youth and children saw off the goodwill envoy of the Chinese people along the streets from the guest house to Yonmottong, waving flags of the two countries and bunches of flowers and chanting slogans "Friendship and solidarity" and "Korea-China friendship".

Thousands of working people and officials of the Chinese Embassy were present at the airport.

A farewell function gook place at the airport.

Premier Li Peng, in company with Premier Yon Hyong-muk, reviewed a guard of honour of the three services of the Korean People's Army.

The plane carrying the guests took off the airport amid the enthusiastic farewell of cadres and working people.

Li Peng Concludes Official Visit

SK0605094991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Premier of the PRC State Council Li Peng, who came to our country on an official goodwill visit at the invitation of Premier of the DPRK State Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk, left Pyongyang this afternoon by airplane after successfully concluding his visit.

This visit to our country by Premier Li Peng has served as an important opportunity in further strengthening the ties of fraternal friendship and militant amity between the Korean and Chinese peoples. Also, it showed great support for and encouragement to our people in their socialist construction and their struggle for national reunification.

Waiting at Pyongyang Airport to see off the Chinese people's envoy of friendship were thousands of working people from the city carrying flags of the two countries, bouquets, balloons, and decorative items of various descriptions for the send-off.

Seen among the crowd were slogans reading "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!"; "Long live the glorious WPK!" [Worker's Party of Korea]; "Long live the great Communist Party of China!"; and "Long live the PRC!" Also seen among the crowd were slogans and pictures reading "We warmly see off the premier of the PRC State Council Comrade Li Peng!" and "Long live the indomitable militant friendship and solidarity forged with blood between the Korean and Chinese peoples!"

Flying atop the flagstaff were national flags of our country and the PRC. [sound of music playing and shouts]

Premier Li Peng and his entourage came to the airport and received a warm farewell from tens of thousands of people who lined the streets that stretch from Kumsong Street to Yonmottong.

Seeing off the guests at the airport were Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council; Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs; Choe Kwang, chief of the Korean People's Army [KPA] General Staff; Vice Premiers Hong Song-nam, Kim Pok-sin, Kang Hui-won, Kim Tal-hyon, and Chang Chol; responsible functionaries from the State Administration Council's committees and departments and central organizations; and Chu Chang-chun, our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the PRC.

Also seeing off the guests at the airport were Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DPRK; the staff of the PRC Embassy in our country; members of the Chinese People's Volunteers of the Korean and Chinese side to the Military Armistice Commission; and Chinese guests staying in our country and students studying in our country.

Also at the airport were diplomatic representatives of foreign countries in our country.

A ceremony was held at the airport to bid farewell to Premier of the PRC State Council Li Peng.

[Begin recording of commander of the honor guard, shouting] Comrade Premier of the PRC State Council, the honor guards of the three services of the KPA stand at attention for [words indistinct]. Commander of the honor guards [word indistinct]. [end recording] [playing of national anthems of Korea and China]

Premier Li Peng viewed the honor guards of the three services of the KPA along with Premier Yon Hyong-muk.

Members of the Juvenile Corps presented Premier Li Peng fragrant bouquets. Working women, staff of the PRC Embassy in our country, and Chinese students studying in our country also presented bouquets to him.

Premier Li Peng exchanged farewell greetings with cadres who came out to see him off.

Out of their warm friendliness and revolutionary sense of obligation toward the Chinese people, the crowds warmly saw the guests off.

The airplane carrying the Chinese people's envoy of friendship left Pyongyang Airport at 1530.

Youth Soccer Team Leaves Pyongyang for Seoul

SK0505131191 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 5 May 91

[Excerpts] Our side's athletic team, which will go to Seoul to participate in the first tryout designed to select athletes to form a joint North-South team for the Sixth World Junior Soccer Championship, left Pyongyang for Kaesong on the morning of 5 May.

At a time when the athletes of the first North-South joint table tennis team, who are participating in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships in Japan amid the attention of all the countrymen and the world, are vigorously demonstrating the fact that the nation and the fatherland are one, and are also demonstrating the wisdom and talent of our nation, our side's athletic team is leaving for a tryout to form a joint North-South soccer team designed to select athletes. Carrying the flags of the Republic and bouquets of flowers, numerous workers and sportsmen in the city came to the Pyongyang Station compound early in the morning. [passage omitted]

When (Yi Myong-song), vice chairman of the Korean Soccer Federation and head of our side's athletic team, and athletes, officials, and reporters were arriving at Pyongyang Station, the crowd waved flower bouquets, applauded for the fatherland's reunification, and enthusiastically saw the team off. [passage omitted]

Yun Ki-pok, Officials See Team Off

SK0605061591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—The North side's team and its entourage left here today by train for Seoul to participate in the first appraisal match for the selection of players of a North-South unified team to compete in the 6th World Youth Soccer Championships.

They were seen off at Pyongyang Railway Station by Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, Chang Chol, vice-premier and minister of culture and art, Kim Yu-sun, chairman of the State Commission of Physical Culture and Sports and chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee, Paek Nam-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, and other officials concerned.

The footballers are accompanied by reporters.

Team Passes Through Panmunjom

SK0605065391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0626 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Panmunjom May 6 (KCNA)—The North side's team and its entourage left Kaesong this morning and passed through Panmunjom to go to Seoul for the first appraisal match to select players of a North-South unified team to compete in the 6th world youth football championships.

Waving the flags of our Republic and bunches of flowers a large number of working people of Kaesong and sportsmen saw off with enthusiastic cheers our players who would participate in the first player-selection match for a North-South unified team since division.

They were farewelled at Panmunjom by Kim Ki-son, chairman of the Kaesong Municipal People's Committee; Han Kwang-yim, chairman of the Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, and others.

Yi Myong-song, vice-chairman of the Football Association of the DPRK who is heading the North side's team, and players, officials and reporters crossed this morning the Demarcation Line and entered the South side's portion.

Kim Chong-sik, spokesman for our team released a statement upon our team's entry into the South side's portion.

He said the realisation of the North-South unified team is a victory of the line of alliance and a victory of the pro-reunification forces and a national jubilee.

The football team of the North side will exert every possible effort to make this appraisal match an occasion in giving further momentum to the national unity and sentiment for national reunification and to bring earlier its day, he added.

Soccer Association Spokesman Comment

SK0605061791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0520 GMT 6 May 91

["Spokesman of DPRK Football Association Interviewed on Seoul Trip of North Side's Youth Soccer Team"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the football association of the DPRK today gave answers to questions put by KCNA concerning the Seoul trip of the North side's youth soccer team for an appraisal match to select the players of the unified Korea team.

The spokesman said:

Seoul, the venue of the appraisal match for the unified Korea team, is now in a very unstable and horrible terror-ridden atmosphere due to the brutal outrages of the fascist dictators and the funerals of Kang Kyong-tae and other fallen students have yet to be held. Therefore, holding the first appraisal match in Seoul is in fact abnormal and does not accord with the main purport of the appraisal match.

South Korea is now filled with bitter sorrow at the death of one patriotic student after another and shaking with shouts of curses and denunciation against the fascist murderers.

In this context, it is out of common sense and goes against etiquette to hold the soccer match for appraisal in the house in mourning.

We could not but put off the date of the first appraisal match slated for May 4 in Seoul for four days because May 4 was one of the mourning days for Kang Kyong-tae and his funeral had yet to be held.

Nevertheless, the funeral of Kang Kyong-tae has not yet been held and other students have died.

The members of our youth soccer team feel pains in their hearts at this unhappy situation and say they are reluctant to go to Seoul.

However, we decided to go to Seoul on May 6 as scheduled, although our footsteps are heavy, and encourage the fellow countrymen in South Korea, sharing sorrow with them, since the formation of a North-South unified soccer team is the first happy event of the nation in the more than 40 years of national division and it had been already promised to all the fellow countrymen.

We strongly hold that the South Korean authorities should stop the fascist suppression that casts a dark shadow on the formation of the unified team and refrain from spoiling the atmosphere of reunification festival.

U.S. Defense Secretary's Remarks Criticized

SK0605071991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0622 GMT 6 May 91

["NODONG SINMUN Flails U.S. Imperialists' Wild Ambition for Aggression"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—The U.S. secretary of defence, when he met the general director of the Japan defence agency on a visit to the United States, told a lie about "the nuclear plan and threat of North Korea" and prattled that the United States would continue maintaining its armed forces in Northeast Asia and enhance its role of nuclear protection for its allies.

This clearly shows the U.S. daily growing ambition for aggression on Northeast Asia and its reckless nuclear war plan, NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today says, and goes on:

The U.S. outcries over someone's "threat" and "nuclear plan" are a foolish talk whose falsity and deceptiveness have been fully exposed.

We have never done anything to threaten others and do not have a "nuclear plan" in view of our anti-nuclear, peace position and capability.

Those who take issue with us with preposterous outcries have a bird of their own brain. [sentence as received]

The United States is trying to justify the presence of its armed forces of aggression in Northeast Asia including South Korea with an unreasonable pretext and step up preparations for a nuclear war there under the cloak of "nuclear protection." This, needless to say, is to carry out the aggressive Asia-Pacific strategy in Northeast Asia.

It is ridiculous of those who are scheming to inflict a nuclear holocaust upon our nation to attempt to force us to accept nuclear inspection.

If the United States really wants peace in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia, it should withdraw all its nuclear weapons and armed forces from this region and take hands of aggression and interference off there.

Kim Il-song Meets With Tanzanian Delegation

SK0305103291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 3 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the government delegation of the Untied Republic of Tanzania headed by Ahmad Hasan Diria, minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation, on a visit to Korea.

Present there were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Minister of External Economic Affairs Chon Il-chun, and Tanzanian Ambassador to Korea Ferdinand K. Ruhinda.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the guests in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

He was presented with a gift by the guests.

KCNA Review of 4 May Pyongyang Press

SK0405063391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0548 GMT 4 May 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang May 4 (KCNA)—Dailies here today carry photo-accompanied reports that the great leader President Kim Il-song received separately the government delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania and the delegation of the Democratic Left Party of Ecuador.

Given in the press is news that works of President Kim Il-song were deeply studied and reported in different countries.

The Tanzanian Government delegation presented a gift to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, says the press.

It is reported in papers that works of Comrade Kim Chong-il were carried by foreign newspapers.

Figuring large in the press are reports about the arrival in Pyongyang of the premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. Seen there is news that Premier Li Peng arrived in Pyongyang, over 500,000 working people, youth and students in the city warmly welcomed him along a 12 kilometre long route, talks were held between Premiers Yon Hyong-muk and Li Peng, the DPRK Government arranged a banquet in his honour and Premier Li Peng laid wreaths in the cemetery of revolutionary martyrs on Mt. Taesong and before the Friendship Tower. Speeches made by the two premiers at the banquet are carried in papers.

Dailies give accounts of the fifth day sitting of the 85th Interparliamentary Conference and a banquet arranged for the participants of the conference by the chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee.

The press reports that Pham Van Dong, adviser to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, met the DPRK Government delegation led by Vice-President Yi Chong-ok and the president of the State of Palestine met the DPRK ambassador.

A meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments was held in Pyongyang, says the press.

Papers inform the readers that a plan and an agreement on cooperation between Korea and Vietnam and a protocol of the 5th Inter-Governmental Joint Committee of Korea and Tanzania were signed.

Papers inform the readers that players of the unified Korea team continue to give a good account of themselves at the 41st World Table Tennis Championships.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged unceasing aerial war exercises against the North, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article calling for the release of the visitors to the North including woman student Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon and all the patriotic figures.

It runs a commentary denouncing the South Korean authorities' "unilateral U.N. membership" campaign under the title "Peddling Splittist Ware".

The paper carries articles denouncing the brutal murder committed by the South Korean authorities and their moves for permanent division.

Given in the press are accounts of a youth and students meeting in North Hwanghae Province and a central meeting of Korean youth and students in Japan to condemn the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u fascist ruling group for killing student Kang Kyong-tae.

Papers highlight news that various forms of struggle to denounce the murder of Kang were waged across South Korea.

Foreign news media reported the struggle of South Korean people who denounced the South Korean trip of Gorbachev as a trip helping in the moves for a permanent division of Korea, says NODONG SINMUN.

It carries a photo-illustrated article calling for the removal of the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line.

It is reported in the paper that the general secretary of the C.C., the New Communist Party of Great Britain issued a statement to the press denouncing the recent utterances of the South Korean puppet defence minister threatening to "surprise and destroy atomic reactor facilities of the North".

Papers report that Comrade Fidel Castro visited the Cuban wing of the International Medical Appliances Fair and May Day was celebrated in different countries.

NODONG SINMUN introduces the Tibet autonomous region of China which is making a wide use of solar heat.

KCNA Review of 6 May NODONG SINMUN

SK0605070991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0604 GMT 6 May 91

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the delegation of the National People's Congress of China which had participated in the 85th Interparliamentary Conference and a report that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by the delegation.

Chinese and Soviet mass media reported about President Kim Il-song's meeting with Li Peng, premier of the State Council of China, says the daily.

Printed in the paper are congratulatory messages and letters to President Kim Il-song from foreign countries on his birthday.

An article of the paper tells that President Kim Il-song founded the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland on May 5, 1936 during the anti-Japanese revoltionary struggle and gave a wise guidance in expanding and strengthening its organisation and enhancing its role.

Appearing in the daily is a message of greetings sent by the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] to Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga upon his election as chairman of the Guidance Committee of the Zairese popular revolutionary movement.

The daily informs the readers that thanks of the C.C., the WPK was conveyed to the teachers of Nampo University which has achieved remarkable results in education and training.

The paper gives accounts of a meeting held to mark the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the completion of the February 8 vinalon complex and a congratulatory message of the C.C., the WPK was conveyed to the entire workers, technicians, office employees and the three revolution team members of the complex.

It informs the readers that April 15 was celebrated in Nigeria, Switzerland and Egypt.

Economic news of the paper includes reports that the Yongsong General Machine Bureau finished the production assignments of ordered equipment for the first-stage construction of the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex.

Li Peng, premier of the State Council of China, visited Kangwon Province says the paper.

The daily informs the readers that Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, sent a message of greetings to the Finnish prime minister and a message of sympathy to the Bangladeshi prime minister, and Vice-President Pak Song-chol received credentials from the new Polish ambassador.

Paddler Yi Pun-hui of the unified Korea women's team placed second in Women's singles, in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships held in Chiba, Japan, says the paper.

It informs the readers that the North side's soccer team and its entourage left Pyongyang to go to Seoul to participate in the first appraisal match for the selection of players of a North-South unified team.

New Korean Ambassador e.p. to Jordan Kung Sok-ung presented his credentials to the King of Jordan, according to the paper.

The delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR laid wreaths in the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt. Taesong and the Liberation Tower in Pyongyang, says the paper.

The paper reports that participants in the 85th Interparliamentary Conference stressed the proposal for reunificationn by means of confederation is a fair and above-board one correctly reflecting the reality of Korea.

The paper give accounts of mass meetings condemning the murder of Kang Kyong-tae held at the Kim Hyong-chik University of Education and in South Hwanghae Province.

Remaining in the limelight of the paper is news that the anti-"government" struggle is spreading all over South Korea under the slogans "Dissolve riot police" and "Down with No Tae-u 'regime'".

The paper demands in an article that the "National Security Law" be abolished in South Korea without delay.

Given in the paper is an account of the starting ceremony of the "international solidarity march movement for supporting Korea's reunification" and a signature campaign in Tunisia.

The paper informs the readers that Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, met the delegation of the Japan Social-Democratic Party on a visit to China.

Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY carried an article headlined "Flower of Friendship in Full Bloom in May" in connection with the Korean visit of Premier Li Peng, according to the paper. It introduces Yichun, a new city of machine-building industry in China.

The paper condemns the U.S. secretary of defence for prattling that the United States will enhance the "role of nuclear protection" for its "allies," taking issue with us.

The Zambian president denounced the United States and Israel for aggravating the Middle East situation, the union of writers and artists of Cuba called for opposing the U.S. anti-Cuban policy, and drug traffic is prevalent in the Soviet Union, says the paper.

The paper analyses the worsening trade friction between the United States and Japan and between the United States and West European countries.

South Korea

IPU Delegation Returns With Talks Agreement

SK0505062791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0604 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean lawmakers returned Sunday from Interparliamentary Union [IPU] meeting in North Korea with an agreement for reopening talks on inter-Korean parliamentary exchanges.

A 25-member delegation, comprised of 12 national assemblymen and their aides, retreaded the path across the border village of Panmunjom a little past noon, the same road they traveled when they left for Pyongyang to attend the 85th IPU meeting April 29-May 4.

It was the first visit by South Korean lawmakers to the communist North since the national division in 1945.

Rep. Chae Mun-sik, the chief delegate for the currently suspended inter-Korean parliamentarians' talks, said he and Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the North Korean Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, agreed to reopen talks for parliamentary exchanges in the near future.

Chon came to his room unannounced late Saturday night, Chae said, and they had an impromptu one-hour meeting on wide range of topics concerning inter-Korean relations.

Dates for the talks have not yet been set, Chae said, but they agreed that the preparatory negotiations should begin in the nearest future. Details of the talks with Chon will be announced after prior report to Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu, he said.

"We have met with number of North Korean officials and discussed broadly on number of issues regarding inter-Korean relations, including resumption of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks," Rep. Pak Chong-su, head of the South Korean IPU delegation, said upon arrival at the border village.

"We have directly asked North Korean leader Kim Il-song during dinner April 29 that he agree to a South-North Korean summit," he said.

The lawmakers had met with leading North Korean officials during their stay, urging Pyongyang, among other things, to resume inter-Korean prime ministers' talks it suspended in February. They delivered a letter from Assembly Speaker Pak to his North Korean Counterpart Yang Hyong-sop, Standing Committee chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, calling for exchanges between lawmakers of the two sides.

One of the major highlights at the week-long IPU meeting was the adoption of a resolution calling on nations that have not yet done so to "unconditionally" sign the nuclear safeguards accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The resolution was targeted at Pyongyang which joined the IAEA in 1974 is yet to sign the accord.

Delegate Remarks on Talks

SK0605013091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0103 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—The chief South Korean delegate to last week's conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] in North Korea said Sunday inter-Korean dialogue was unlikely to resume soon.

Rep. Pak Chong-su, who returned Sunday afternoon at the head of Seoul's 25-member delegation to the IPU meet, said North Korea saw the need for early resumption of dialogue but would weigh the socio-political situation in the South before returning to the conference table.

"North Korea recognizes the need to resume the (inter-Korean) parliamentarians' talks and the high-level (political) talks, but is paying keen attention to the situation in South Korea. In other words, it is likely to take steps after closely watching the South Korean situation for the time being. In this respect, the North Korean attitude falls short of our expectations," Pak said.

He said he told North Korean President Kim Il-song the South Korean Government hoped to hold a summit in the near future "but President Kim did not give a clear answer."

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party lawmaker said he was embarrassed in Pyongyang by questions about Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku's remarks about a possible commando raid on nuclear facilities in North Korea, about the withdrawal of nuclear arms from South Korea and about student demonstrations.

"It was really difficult to persuade the North Koreans that Defense Minister Yi's remarks were misinterpreted and that the (South Korea-U.S.) 'Team Spirit' exercises are defense, not offense, oriented. It was particularly annoying to deal with questions regarding the withdrawal of nuclear arms from South Korea and student demonstrations."

Pak said the IPU meeting in Pyongyang was fruitful in some respects and contacts with North Korean legislators, including chief delegate Chon Kum-chol, were expected to positively affect the atmosphere for dialogue.

He said North Korea did not oppose the IPU resolution on non-proliferation of nuclear arms in principle, but repeated its position that it would open its facilities for international inspection only after American troops in South Korea got rid of their nuclear arms.

'Disappointment' Expressed Over IPU Visit

SK0505114691 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 5 May 91 p 2

[Editorial: "What Gain Has the Parliamentarian Delegation Registered in Pyongyang?"]

[Text] Our country's parliamentary delegation that went to Pyongyang for the first time since the country was divided to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] is to return home today through Panmunjom, concluding its nine-day visit. The parliamentary delegation's official visit to the North was of an uncommon nature in that the delegation was composed of influential politicians instead of government officials, not to mention the fact that it went to Pyongyang at a time when the South's open pursuit of unilateral representation at the United Nations and the defense minister's remarks of a preemptive attack on North Korea's nuclear facilities have very much hardened South-North relations. It is due to our belated realization and disappointment over the fact that a series of South-North talks conducted between, or under the control of, the authorities so far have either failed to bear fruit or have been used by those in power to prolong their stay in office that we paid unusual attention and attached special meaning to the delegation's visit.

However, judging from reports on the delegation's activity during its visit to Pyongyang, it is apparent that we had nothing to expect from its members from the beginning. The delegation made it clear from the beginning that it was a group of lawmakers, not politicians, going to Pyongyang to attend the IPU conference, thereby narrowing its room to maneuver. It has shown no sign of having conducted any intense or substantial discussions with the delegation of the North. The delegation put forward, quite inappropriately and unexpectedly, a proposal for a South-North summit meeting—something that appears unfeasible unless there is any substantial progress in the South-North high-level talks—while most of the members of the delegation leisurely went on a tour of Mt Kumgang at the urge of the North side as the IPU conference was in its final session. Their acts as such are a far cry from the goal the politicians meant to seek during their official visit to the North, the first of its kind since the country was divided.

In such international meetings as the IPU conference, our parliamentary delegation might as well call on the North to seek simultaneous admission into the United Nations as part of their diplomatic effort or stress the importance of reopening the high-level talks. Nevertheless, the 12 members of the parliamentary delegation representing the National Assembly who went to Pyongyang should have realized that it was their mission to take advantage of their visit and to concentrate all their efforts on persuading the North to agree on resuming preliminary contacts for the South-North parliamentary talks that were broken off in January last year after 10 rounds, dating from the summer of 1988. Their nine-day stay in the North was not an inordinately short period of time to pave the way for the resumption of the parliamentary talks, let alone preliminary contact. Frankly speaking, we do not know whether or not the members of the delegation have candidly discussed this with the North side, nor whether or not they made sincere efforts toward that goal. What is more, most of the members of our country's parliamentary delegation to the previous preliminary contacts for South-North parliamentary talks went to Pyongyang this time. We admit that there is more to the contacts between the South and the North than meets the eye. Politicians, however, should have been able to discretionally demonstrate their political skills in their share of talks.

Yi Sang-ok on UN Issue, South-Soviet Summit

SK0405072891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0654 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Anchorage, Alaska, May 3 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Friday that Washington supported the development of Seoul-Moscow and Seoul-Beijing relations.

Stopping here for a night after a tour of Japan and the United States, Yi said the U.S. administration expected South Korea to use its own judgment in connection with a treaty on good neighborliness and cooperation proposed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last month.

"U.S. officials said that they expect us to fully review the significance and content of the treaty and make our own judgment. They said they generally supported the development of Seoul-Moscow and Seoul-Beijing relations," Yi told Korean reporters traveling with him.

South Korean ambassador to Moscow Kong No-myong was awaiting detailed Soviet suggestions on Gorbachev's proposal, and he would convey them to Seoul immediately he recieved them, Yi said.

The foreign minister said he was likely to meet his Soviet counterpart, Alexander Bessmertnykh, after Moscow delivered its detailed suggestions for the treaty.

Yi visited Washington to brief officials on the third South Korea-Soviet summit April 20. Gorbachev flew to the South Korean island of Cheju April 19-20 after visiting Japan and held talks with President No Tae-u.

Gorbachev's proposal raised a stir in the Korean Government, with many officials voicing concern that it might affect relations between Seoul and traditional friends such as the United States.

Yi said both the U.S. and Japanese Governments expressed their support for Seoul's joining the United Nations this year even without North Korea, and that Japan's explicit support might influence China, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

"After a courtesy call on U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, I met with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (Thomas) Pickering and exchanged views on our strategy for U.N. membership. I also met with ambassadors from our major friends and asked for their support," he said.

"During the Korea-U.S. foreign ministers' talks, I was told that Washington would not spare efforts for our right decision to join the United Nations. President (George) Bush promised support even before he heard our explanation."

Korean and U.S. officials agreed that an early No-Bush summit was desirable to discuss the changing international climate since the Gulf war, Yi said.

"We agreed to prepare for a summit, possibly in early July, but the date has not yet been fixed as President Bush's Middle East tour has yet to be scheduled. I understand that President Bush plans to visit the Soviet Union once the Middle East issue is settled. Our government wants to link President No's trip to the United States with a visit to Canada, but it has yet to be decided if he will go there before the U.S. trip or not," Yi said.

He said he did not discuss improvement of ties between the United States and North Korea, and between Japan and North Korea with U.S. officials.

"I think North Korea's failure to sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord (of the International Atomic Energy Agency) would be a stumbling block in improving ties with the United States, and with Japan," he said.

Foreign Minister Returns After U.S. Visit

SK0405121991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1157 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 4 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok returned home Saturday from his trips to the United States and Japan.

During his visits to the two allies, Minister Yi was promised by senior government officials of the two countries including the U.S. President George Bush to support South Korea's bid for the U.N. separate membership in the General Assembly meeting of the United Nations slated for autumn this year if North Korea continues to oppose the simultaneous entry of South and North Korea into the United Nations.

In particular, Yi and Bush agreed in principle to hold the summit talks between South Korea and the United States early in July.

North 'Hints' at Compromise on UN Membership

SK0605113291 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 6 May 91 p 2

[Report by correspondent Pang In-chol from Tokyo]

[Text] According to Japanese papers, North Korea's First Vice-Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu criticized South Korea's call for simultaneous admission of the South and North into the United Nations and its effort to get admitted into the world body unilaterally, and then hinted at North Korea's willingness to hold talks with the South based mainly on its own compromise proposal.

Speaking in a gathering held on 4 May with foreign reporters who came to Pyongyang to cover the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference, Vice-Minister Kang said that "South Korea's calls as such are unnecessary as they are aimed at having the division recognized as lawful in the international community." He then dropped hints at another compromise proposal in addition to North Korea's conventional stand that "the North and South should seek a UN membership with one seat."

Commenting on reports that the United States and the Soviet Union are secretly discussing ways to persuade North Korea to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspection of its nuclear facilities, as well as the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea, Vice Minister Kang said: "If it is true, I would like to view it as something constructive."

North Korea's Nuclear Capability Analyzed

SK0405141991 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 29 Apr 91 p 13

[Interview with Dr Chong Kun-mo, chairman (1989-90) of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, and Minister of Science and Technology, by Kang Sin-ku, deputy editor in chief of KYONGHYANG SINMUN—place and date not given; first graf is editor's notation]

[Text] As was discussed at the recent ROK-USSR summit talks, North Korea's refusal to allow an international inspection of its nuclear facilities has become a pressing issue not only for peace on the Korean peninsula, but also for peace in the world. Is North Korea really developing nuclear weapons? If so, to what extent has it developed nuclear technology? Deputy editor in chief Kang Sin-ku interviewed Dr. Chong Kun-mo, a nuclear physicist who served as chairman of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] General Conference during the 1989-90 period and was Minister of Science and Technology. Listen to this professor from the Aju Institute of Technology explain how far North Korea has advanced in its nuclear development.

[Kang Sin-ku] According to some U.S. nuclear experts, North Korea is expected to reach a point of producing its own nuclear weapons by roughly 1995. Do you think North Korea is capable of producing its own nuclear weapons?

[Chong Kun-mo] North Korea imported from the Soviet Union in 1965 a nuclear reactor in the two-four megawatt range, and then expanded its capacity to the range of eight megawatts using its own technology. In the meantime, North Korea independently built another nuclear reactor in the 30 megawatt range in Yongbyon in February 1987 and has been operating it ever since.

What attracts our attention more than anything else is a large nuclear reactor in the 50-200 megawatt range that North Korea started building in 1984 and which is still under construction.

Recently, it has been confirmed that North Korea has built a nuclear detonation device testing site and a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant, proving that North Korea is in the process of developing its own nuclear weapons.

[Kang] Although some seem to doubt North Korea's ability in nuclear development, North Korea's nuclear capability seems to have reached a relatively high level given the fact that it has expanded its independent nuclear reactor's heat output and has built a gas-cooled reactor in the 30 megawatt range.

Yearly Production of 10 Kg of Plutonium

[Chong] Given the fact that during the sixties and seventies North Korea had a total of 250 researchers trained in the (Duvna) Institute, which played the leading role in the USSR's nuclear development, and that it now keeps a total of 2,400 specialists permanently stationed in Yongbyon, North Korea's nuclear development capabilities can be said to have reached a relatively high level.

In particular, the graphite-moderated gas-cooled reactor in the 30 megawatt range is identical in size and type to the (?Brookhaven) reactor used for the U.S. Manhattan Project. This type of nuclear reactor is capable of producing about 10 kg of plutonium a year, the base material for manufacturing atomic bombs.

Since the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, which was in the range of 20 megatons, was made of about 6.2 kg of plutonium, North Korea can be said to have a nuclear reactor that is capable of producing enough plutonium for at least two Nagasaki-size atomic bombs a year. When the third reactor now under construction is completed and put into operation, North Korea will be able to produce 18 to 50 kg of plutonium a year.

[Kang] Gas-cooled nuclear reactors need graphite concentrate. Some wonder whether or not North Korea is capable of producing graphite concentrate.

[Chong] Gas-cooled reactors, unlike the light-water or heavy-water reactors operating in our country, need air instead of water to cool themselves. Graphite is used as a moderator to control the neutron in this type of reactor. It can be easily obtained as it is traded as industrial material in the international market.

[Kang] Given its use of gas-cooled nuclear reactors, North Korea seems to be developing atomic bombs with plutonium as their base.

Why do nuclear powers use gas-cooled reactors for the production of plutonium?

[Chong] Uranium-238 produces two kinds of plutonium: plutonium-239 and plutonium-240. Plutonium-240 creates a headache when manufacturing atomic bombs. Since plutonium-240 tends to react earlier, the less plutonium-240 contained in a nuclear bomb the better.

Gas-cooled reactors are used for the production of materials necessary for atomic bombs since they produce less plutonium-240 when they burn uranium-248. The heavy-water reactor at Wolsong in our country produces too much plutonium-240 when burning nuclear fuel, and it is difficult to use the reactor for the production of materials necessary for nuclear weapons.

[Kang] According to reports, the Soviet Union announced that it would stop supplying nuclear materials to North Korea. Do you believe that North Korea is capable of obtaining the necessary nuclear materials on its own?

[Chong] Since the gas-cooled reactor uses natural uranium, North Korea will not have much difficulty in obtaining nuclear fuel if it has deposits of natural uranium. According to the IAEA, North Korea is believed to be using uranium metal and uranium oxide as nuclear fuel.

In addition, North Korea has no problem at all in getting supplies of nuclear fuel on its own because it has a large-scale uranium mine in Pyongsan with a deposit of 4 million tons.

[Kang] If North Korea is equipped with such basic conditions for the manufacturing of nuclear weapons, then whether or not North Korea has nuclear reprocessing technology that is absolutely necessary for developing nuclear weapons will be a key question.

Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Technology Easy To Acquire

[Chong] The nuclear reprocessing technology of extracting plutonium from the spent nuclear fuels is not hard to develop. Those who were involved in a study conducted in the United States in the seventies to find out whether or not developing countries are able to acquire the nuclear fuel reprocessing technology concluded that any country equipped with wine brewing technology can acquire the nuclear fuel reprocessing technology. The question is whether governments in these countries can provide enough assistance for the production of nuclear weapons.

Just as India developed its nuclear weapon and tested its explosion in 1974, North Korea can do it easily if it is so determined.

[Kang] Even designing nuclear weapons requires relatively high technology. Do you think North Korea has acquired such technology?

[Chong] In principle, there are about 120 ways to develop nuclear weapons, and anyone at the level of a student majoring in science and engineering can do it. However, it requires relatively high technology to do so with high precision, including accuracy and reliability.

Nuclear bombs can be classified largely into two categories: one is a gun type, and the other is an implosion type. The gun type places the projectile, a subcritical piece of uranium, in a gun barrel and fires it into its target, another subcritical piece of uranium, so as to make the subcritical masses clash simultaneously. The implosion type raises the density of the nuclear material inside a ball by detonating 64 charges placed on the surface of the ball-shaped nuclear bomb simultaneously, thereby causing the nuclear material inside the ball to start a chain reaction. The gun method was adopted into the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, which was nicknamed "Little Boy." As this method proved difficult to control the explosion, the implosion method is more widely used nowadays.

[Kang] Is the testing site of high explosives shown in recent satellite photographs related to a nuclear detonating device?

[Chong] It is. As the implosion type needs simultaneous detonation of all charges, it requires a high level of detonating technology. This means that the crater-like testing site in recent satellite photographs seem to be the results of a detonation test.

From the early seventies, North Korea is reported to have drawn criticism for having contacted scientists who were involved in the Manhattan Project, including Dr (Higgins Bodem) who designed the detonation of the Manhattan Project. Judging from the sign of North Korea's hasty attitude, North Korea seems to have mastered the detonation technology by this time.

[Kang] Then, North Korea appears to have mastered technology for manufacturing nuclear bombs. Some experts worry that North Korea may acquire a nuclear bomb by 1993, earlier than the U.S. Government predicted, that is, by 1995.

[Chong] It is true that the theory that North Korea may acquire nuclear bombs earlier than expected is well founded.

There are people who believe that over the past four years, from its 40-kw-class nuclear reactor, North Korea has acquired a total of 30 kg of material for nuclear weapons (plutonium) sufficient enough to manufacture five to six Nagasaki-class bombs and that it has already completed facilities to reprocess this material. Therefore, there is a possibility that it may be able to manufacture nuclear bombs before 1993. I do not think that the fact that the United States is urgently calling for an inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities has anything to do with this possibility.

In view of North Korea's capabilities, I think, North Korea can manufacture primitive nuclear bombs.

[Kang] North Korea signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty in October 1985, but has refused to subscribe to the Full-Scope Nuclear Safeguards Agreement, to which it should subscribe within 18 months after the signature of the treaty. North Korea has passed the deadline by four years as of now. Then, what do you think of North Korea's nuclear strategy?

[Chong] As a precondition for subscribing to the agreement, North Korea has demanded that a reference to a need to "turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone" be included in the preamble of the agreement and that the reference "the agreement can be abrogated depending on the change of the circumstances of nuclear nations" be included in Clause 26. However, I think that North Korea has refused to subscribe to the agreement to buy time for developing nuclear weapons.

I think that North Korea will ultimately subscribe to the safeguards agreement. Still, it appears that North Korea will do so after manufacturing two or three nuclear bombs.

[Kang] Nuclear bombs can be efficiently used in modern warfare only when there are delivery means. Do you think that North Korea's Scud missiles can be loaded with nuclear warheads?

[Chong] A chain reaction was caused to a mere 1.2 percent of the fuel of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Still, this bomb caused many casualties. If a Scud missile loaded with a nuclear warhead is dropped on a population center, it will cause massive casualties, even though its precision is relatively low.

[Kang] How do you think we should respond to North Korea's moves?

[Chong] We must make diplomatic efforts to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear bombs. I also think that we, freeing ourselves from our reliance on foreign technology, must master nuclear technology by ourselves.

U.S. 'Flexible Attitudes' on Nuclear Weapons

SK0605104591 Seoul YONHAP in English 1023 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—The United States is considering taking flexible attitudes towards North Korea's demand for removal of tactical nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula in a bid to encourage it to open its nuclear facilities to international inspections, according to a local report here Monday.

"It is under a discreet consideration to relocate the U.S. tactical nuclear weapons held by the U.S. forces in Korea with a view to creating an atmosphere suitable for letting North Korea acquiesce in international nuclear inspections," the CHUNGANG ILBO quoted an anonymous source as saying.

Though the United States had so far taken a policy of no-confirmation and no-denial on the existence of nuclear weapons on Korean soil, it is widely believed the U.S. forces deployed in Korea are armed with tactical ones.

"It is the judgement of ranking Korean and American officials that the issue concerning the tactical nuclear weapons known to be held by the U.S. forces in South Korea should be touched upon in any form in order to properly cope with the matter of North Korea's development of atomic weapons," the source was quoted as saying.

North Korea signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1985 but has yet to join the nuclear safeguards accord and there has been rising international concern that Pyongyang may soon have nuclear weapons.

Pyongyang has said it would not sign the safeguards accord as long as Washington deploys nuclear weapons in Korea.

A U.S. plan now under consideration is to replace the existing nuclear arsenal with air-launched ballistic missiles (ALBMs) or the submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) of the 7th U.S. Fleet in the Pacific, the paper said.

The plan, which was once considered before the 1980s, sprang into practicality as high-tech weapons proved their accuracy and power in the Gulf war.

Such a position has been repeatedly voiced by the U.S. side and William Taylor, vice president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, recently told a news conference here that Korea and the United States should consider removal of ground-based weapons, given the alternative of air- and sea-borne launching platforms for nuclear weapons, according to the report.

Official Denies U.S. To 'Cut Back Its Forces'

SK0605132691 Seoul YONHAP in English 1311 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—A South Korean defense official Monday denied a recent report by Japanese newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN that the United States would sharply cut back its forces stationed in Korea from 1993 till 1995.

"Korea and the United States are yet to discuss in detail the second-phase troop reduction plan slated for 1993-1995," said a senior defense ministry official who asked not to be identified.

The two nations agreed during the last annual security consultative meeting in November that any change in the U.S. forces in Korea after 1993 should be put forward by Korea for consideration between the two countries, the official pointed out.

The Korean side already delivered its position to Washington that it was desirable for the United States not to additionally pull out its troops before 1995, he continued.

He said the matter may be discussed when U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Paul Wolfowitz visits Korea on May 10-12. But he said he did not think the two nations might reach an accord on a sharp cutback of American Armed Forces in Korea.

In April 1990, the U.S. Defense Department reported to the Congress that it would reevaluate the military situation in the Korean peninsula during the first-phase troop pullout plan period (1990-1992) and then decide whether to rearrange the U.S. second infantry division.

Talks on Shipping To Take Place in USSR

SK0505034391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 May 91 p 8

[Text] Korea and the Soviet Union will hold business-level shipping talks this week in Khabarovsk, the Soviet Far East, to iron out their differences on the opening of the direct sea route between the two countries.

Mun Ik-sang, senior vice president of the Hyundai Merchant Marine Co., left yesterday for the Soviet

Union along with another Hyundai official to discuss minor but knotty issues with his counterparts of the Soviet state-run Far Eastern Shipping Co. (FESCO).

The two sides have wide differences on the freight rates and cargo gathering procedures in both countries.

A Hyundai official said the two sides can solve the issues unless the Soviet side insists on their previous position.

At the previous meeting in November last year in Moscow, the two sides agreed to set freight charges at a similar level with the freight being offered by a Japanese shipping company deploying vessels between Korea and the Soviet Far East.

But the official said the Soviet side later refused further negotiations if the freight charge is not lowered by 20-30 percent.

The Soviet shipping company has also insisted that it be given right to collect cargoes in Korea as well as in its country through its agent firms, excluding Korean firms.

The official said, "The Soviet side contention is unreasonable in view of international shipping practices although the country needs more time to become a full market-oriented economy."

The two sides have agreed to deploy one ship each on the direct sea route between Pusan of Korea and Vostochny in the Soviet Far East, he said, adding that each side should be allowed to manage business on an equal basis.

The two shipping companies were originally scheduled to deploy two 300-TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units) containerships for two sailings a week in June, at the latest.

The FEFC [Far Eastern Freight Conference] contended that cargo collection should be made even in Korea by an agent firm designated by the Soviet state-run company.

The 20 to 30 percent cut in freight charges from the agreed level means a chronic deficit for both Korean and Soviet shipping companies, he explained.

A Korean agent for the Soviet shipping company will be obliged to suffer deficits ranging from $300,000 to $400,000 a year even if the direct shipping route opens, he said.

"We will give up the joint shipping service idea if the Soviet side never changes its contentions at the talks this week," said Mun.

Kim Tae-chung's Letter to UN Triggers Dispute

SK0405012491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 May 91 p 2

[Text] Rival parties are at loggerheads over Seoul's U.N. membership.

The different positions of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the opposition New Democratic Union [NDU] were highlighted with NDU leader Kim Tae-chung's letter to the world body which indirectly criticizes Seoul's position.

The DLP simply urged Kim to stay out of the government's conduct of diplomacy yesterday.

The government party accused Kim of creating "confusion" by sending a personal letter to U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar.

In the letter, Kim said that South and North Korea should be admitted to the United Nations "by all means simultaneously."

He called on Perez de Cuellar to persuade the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to invite the governments of the two Koreas to apply for simultaneous admission to the international organization.

Ruling party spokesman Pak Hui-tae expressed concern that Kim's letter would hurt the government's foreign policy.

Since non-partisan diplomacy is the norm in international politics, one nation's foreign policy must be voiced unanimously, he said. "At home it is alright to express dissent but abroad it causes confusion in our foreign policy."

Pak asked the NDU leader to stay out of diplomacy as President No has been doing a good job.

However Kim told reporters he doesn't think that his party should blindly follow the government's foreign policy.

Kim's letter said, "The admission of ROK (South Korea) alone to the United Nations is an incomplete expression of the will of the Korean nation and will exercise a negative influence over the peace in the Korean Peninsula by heightening the tension between South and North Korea.

"Therefore, we desire that both ROK and DPRK (North Korea) should be admitted to the United Nations by all means simultaneously.

"Above all, it will provide an opportunity for DPRK to enter the United Nations without losing its self-respect. Despite such opportunity being offered, if DPRK still does not render its decision to enter the United Nations, then the United Nations will have no choice but admit ROK to the United Nations."

Kim Tae-chung Hints at Possible Outdoor Rallies

SK0305061091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0533 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung warned Friday that his party, the New Democratic Union [NDU], might hold outdoor rallies to protest last week's police beating death of a student if the government failed to take steps to settle the row.

"As a responsible political party, we at NDU believe that all issues pertaining to the death of Mr. Kang Kyong-tae should be dealt with in the National Assembly and in the political arena," Kim told a news conference at party headquarters.

"We will seek to settle the issues through the resignation of (Prime Minister) No Chae-pong's cabinet and the disbanding of the 'skeleton squads' (plainclothes riot police units) before the on-going extra sitting of the assembly adjourns (on May 9). If prospects are dim for such efforts, however, we will hold outdoor protest rallies, though on a limited scale."

Kang, an economics freshman at Myongji University in Seoul, died shortly after he was beaten with iron pipes by a group of plainclothed riot policemen during a street demonstration on April 26.

Kim called on students nationwide to "stop self-immolation and other acts of giving up your lives," noting that the home minister had been fired, President No Tae-u was apologizing and the skeleton squads were about to be disbanded.

Two students have set themselves ablaze in protests over the killing of Kang, and one has died. The other is in critical condition with extensive third-degree burns and is not expected to survive.

The opposition leader, who unsuccessfully ran for presidency against No in 1987, made it plain that he would not join a growing call of dissidents seeking to oust No.

"Our people, considering the nation's international status and economic power, wants to change the government through elections," he said.

Kim said the NDU was taking joint measures with dissident groups, focusing on dissolving the cabinet and skeleton squads.

"We are not pressured by them (dissidents), nor are we pressuring them," he added.

Turning to the hot issue of revising the National Security Law and other laws with strong political implications, Kim said his party was ready to discuss them with the ruling Democratic Liberal Party only if it received drafts.

The NDU set up altars for the dead students at its headquarters and in city and provincial chapters. It plans a motorcade of cars plastered with slogans such as "resignation of the security-oriented cabinet" and "disband the skeleton squads" on Saturday afternoon.

Urges Cabinet Resignation Again

SK0605031591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—The main opposition party, led by Kim Tae-chung, reiterated its call Monday for the resignation of the cabinet and a declaration renouncing the cabinet system of government.

In a five-point resolution adopted at an executive party affairs meeting Monday, the party threatened to stage anti-government rallies across the country unless the government accepted its demands.

The New Democratic Party [NDP] listed five demands, including the resignation of the cabinet, dissolution of the plainclothed riot police, and a declaration by President No Tae-u renouncing the cabinet system of government. The other demands were ending "security-oriented" rule by revising political laws, including the National Security Law, and guaranteeing freedom of assembly and demonstration.

"(If the demands are accepted) we at the No. 1 opposition party will positively cooperate for the stability of the political situation," the NDP resolution said. "But if they are rejected, we will take determined offensive actions to appeal directly to the people and to denounce and rectify the undemocratic nature of No's regime."

The resolution reiterated Kim's position that he would not wage a campaign to oust No from the presidency.

"We will further cooperate with all democratic forces for the democratic development of the nation. In this process, we will firmly stand by the principle of parliamentary democracy built on public opinion and elections."

Kim ran unsuccessfully for the presidency in late 1987 against No.

"All tragic incidents of today were generated by President No's mistaken belief to stay in power permanently through constitutional revision toward a cabinet government system.

"To fundamentally get rid of the elements of the current political instability, President No should instantly give up the plan to revise the Constitution in violation of the pledges he made as a presidential candidate and should publicly announce that he won't seek such a revision," the resolution said.

"President No must promise the people that his undemocratic, repressive, security-oriented rule will not be prolonged. To fulfill his promise, he should revise or abolish the National Security Law and the Law on the Agency for National Security Planning, enact a police neutralization law, and work out legal and systematic steps that will fundamentally ban such rule," it said.

Restrictions on Securities Market Suggested

SK0405031391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—Once the South Korean securities market opens to direct foreign investment, the government should control the flow of profits back overseas, participants in a symposium on securities market liberalization said Friday.

Market opening should include ownership restrictions for each foreign investor, and money should be funneled in through local accounts, they said.

Uh Yun-Tae, a Korea University professor, said that for at least two years foreigners should be restricted in repatriating principal and interest and dividends. The sudden drain of foreign hot money, expected when the Korean securities market is open to direct investment, was most likely to damage the country's balance of payments, he said.

Kim Chin-kuk, a senior managing director of Lucky Securities Co., urged that foreign securities investment be handled by domestic securities companies through special accounts for overseas customers.

The symposium was sponsored by the Korea Securities Dealers Association.

Uh, stressing the blow to Korea's balance of payments, urged that investment outflow be limited for at least two years from the date of market opening. Overseas transfers after that should also be carefully controlled so as not to cause a sudden drain of foreign funds, he said.

Korea announced in December 1988 its plans to open the market for direct investment in 1992 and is expected to reveal detailed guidelines during latter half of the year.

According to an association official, indirect investment by foreigners amounts to 3.3 percent of the country's 75 trillion won (103.4 billion U.S. dollars) worth of listed stocks.

Once the bourse is open, each foreign investor should be limited to at most 5 percent of any one issue, and total foreign ownership should not exceed 10 percent of the country's total listed value, Uh told the symposium.

The only exceptions should be stocks sold through certificates of beneficiary interest, such as the Korea Fund, and overseas convertible bonds, he said.

Lucky's Kim suggested that the government designate local dealers to handle foreigners' transactions and called for establishment of bank accounts specifically for foreign securities investment.

The investment fund will be handled by local dealers, and in turn, the dealers must upgrade their service to be able to handle all overseas operations, Kim said.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Discusses Nationalities Issue

BK0405101591 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 May 91

[Excerpts] Major General [Maj Gen] Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Regions and National Races [WCDBRNR], and his entourage left Yangon [Rangoon] on the morning of 2 May in an Air Force plane and arrived at Lasio Airport at 0945. Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt was accompanied by Colonel Thein Win, Air Force chief of staff; Brigadier General Myo Thant, director of signals; U San Thein, director general of the People's Police Force; responsible officials from the Office of the SLORC and the Office of the WCDBRNR; directors general and managing directors from departments and work committees; and other responsible officials. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt held a meeting with Palaung national leaders led by U Ai Mong, who had returned to the legal fold, in the Operations Hall of the Northeast Military Command Headquarters and discussed the development of border regions and national races. [passage omitted] Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt delivered an opening address at the meeting:

[Begin Khin Nyunt recording] On behalf of the Defense Services and the SLORC, I would first like to welcome the Palaung national leaders with pleasure. [passage omitted] Members of my entourage are here to work for the development of the region of our fraternal Palaung nationals.

Upon learning that the Palaung armed organization led by U Ai Mong, U Nyi Lo, U Lwe Sai, and other leaders has returned to the legal fold, our SLORC has thought about future programs. We have always welcomed with open arms any armed organization that returns to the legal fold and it is our conviction that once they return to the legal fold we have the responsibility of working for the development of their respective region. To mention the organizations that have returned to the legal fold and have cooperated with us, we have the Kokang, Wa, Shan, Akha, some Kachins, and Pa-o nationals. These nationals who have returned to the legal fold have expressed their faith in the SLORC and have agreed to accept the leadership and management of the Defense Services and the SLORC and to cooperate in unity. We have been carrying out development tasks, especially in areas that have lagged behind in development. Our endeavors are well-covered by the radio, television, and newspapers. [passage omitted]

We now have considerable development in the regions inhabited by the Kokang, Wa, Shan, Akha, some Kachin nationals, and Pa-o—our fraternal national races who have come to understand our endeavors being undertaken in the interests of the country and the people. Therefore, the internal insurgency will gradually disappear once our endeavors are understood. We are convinced that the Palaung nationals have returned to the legal fold because they have faith in the SLORC and the Defense Services.

There are still some national races left. For instance, the Karen region in the south and the Kachin region in the far north where we still have KNU [Karen National Union] and KIA [Kachin Independence Army] insurgents respectively. They too have their own convictions. They became insurgents following the country's independence. They did not become insurgents because of our Defense Services. These insurgencies have been around since the time of the post-independence political governments. As for the Defense Services, it must maintain its allegiance toward any government that emerges and must carry out the defense tasks assigned to it by that government. However, we must fight and crush any insurgent organizations that take up arms in the country. So, we still have the KNU and the KIA. We shall always welcome them with open arms if these organizations accept the stand and policy of the Defense Services and the SLORC and return to the legal fold with sincerity. We always welcome with open arms those who return to the legal fold with sincerity. Today, we have the Palaung nationals who have returned to the legal fold with sincerity and we shall carry out the necessary work for them. [passage omitted]

Our Defense Services and the SLORC are forever committed to the three cardinal tasks of preventing the disintegration of the union, preventing the disintegration of national unity, and of perpetuating the nation's sovereignty. These three cardinal tasks are to be carried out by everyone. We have the conviction to carry out these tasks hand in hand with the national people. Therefore, it will be necessary to cooperate with us and have faith in us, and not to be suspicious. We shall, on our part, effectively carry out the tasks that need to be done. The most important thing is to have faith, respect, and candor among us. We shall also work in good faith. I would like to say that it will be necessary to have faith in us, and not to have suspicion. So, we still have these armed organizations—the KIA and the KNU. We shall always welcome them with open arms if these organizations have faith and respect toward our Defense Services and the SLORC and return to the legal fold with sincerity. We shall always welcome them with open arms. While I have the opportunity today, I am explaining this frankly to all.

I conclude here by urging the leaders present to coordinate frankly and closely with the departmental authorities in my entourage. I thank you all. [end recording]

Next, U Ai Mong, leader of the PSLA [Palaung State Liberation Army], explained how the Palaung national leaders returned to the legal fold and said their organization would cooperate with the state in regional development programs.

[Begin Ai Mong recording] First I would like to express my respect for the leaders of the SLORC, Secretary-1 Major General Khin Nyunt and military leaders present at the peace talks, and members of our PSLA delegation. After scrutinizing the policies and practical programs of the SLORC military government, we found that they are in the genuine interests of the country. Therefore, at the conference of the commanders of the PSLA, it was decided that the PSLA would cooperate with the SLORC leaders for national construction tasks. The conference carried out thorough deliberations on the submissions, suggestions, and appeals submitted by the entire Ta-ang [Palaung] people and clergy, and discussions on the current situation were held.

In accordance with the unanimous decision of the PSLA commanders, a provisional delegation for peace talks was formed on 20 April 1991 and preliminary peace talks were scheduled for 23 April 1991. On 24 April 1991, in accordance with the decision made at the highest level, telegrams were sent to the National Democratic Front [NDF] and the Democratic Alliance of Burma [DAB] informing them of the resignation of the PSLA from the NDF and the DAB. Ties were also cut with organizations that had been declared unlawful. Therefore, I would like to inform that our PSLA is no longer a member of the NDF and the DAB.

We are very eager to develop the Ta-ang region, which has lagged behind in development, with assistance from the SLORC government. The PSLA fully believes that the SLORC will be successful in carrying out its three cardinal tasks which are in the interests of the people of the plains and the hills. It will be necessary for the Ta-ang people to have the right to participate in the process of drafting the state constitution. The PSLA is free of suspicion toward the SLORC government and has full faith in the SLORC. Similarly, the PSLA would like the SLORC leaders to have full faith in the entire Ta-ang people. The PSLA cooperates in good faith with the SLORC government and believes that with assistance from the SLORC government, health, education, economy, religion, tradition, and customs in the PSLA area can be developed effectively and rapidly. The PSLA will cooperate with the Defense Services in ensuring regional security, prevalence of law and order, and local defense within the legal framework. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In his concluding speech, Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said today's peace and regional development talks with the Palaung national leaders were successful and that the PSLA, which is no longer a member of the NDF and the DAB, has completely cut off its ties with these organizations. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the SLORC is paving the way for the emergence of a firm state constitution and that a national convention will have to be held in the future for the emergence of a firm state constitution. He said organizations that had returned to the legal fold will have to participate in the drafting of the state constitution. He said the SLORC and the Defense Services would not supervise the assembly of the national convention, but it is a task to be carried out by political parties and elected representatives. He said the SLORC and the Defense Services will do their utmost to assist and advise on the issue of assembling the national convention and drafting a firm state constitution.

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the Northeast Military Command is free of insurgent organizations, except for the Loimaw group, providing more opportunities for the Defense Services to assist in regional development. He added that the SLORC and the Defense Services do not accept the Myanmar [Burmese] chauvinism and narrow racial outlook policy. [passage omitted]

He said the leaders of the KNU and the KIA are making unfounded fabrications in order to obtain assistance from abroad. He said it is incorrect to rely on foreign assistance for internal matters. All are welcome if they return to the legal fold with the correct attitude. All will be welcome if they return to the legal fold to settle our internal and national issues inside the country. Efforts will be made to ensure equal development of our fraternal national races in the border regions. He said all those who return to the legal fold out of good faith in the SLORC and the Defense Services are treated equally. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Defense Ministers Hold Closed-Door Meeting

BK2804071291 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] The defense ministers of the Five Power Defense Arrangement, FPDA, countries started their meeting behind closed doors in Kuala Lumpur today in conjunction with the FPDA's 20th anniversary.

Leading their respective delegations to the meeting are Defense Minister Senator Robert Ray of Australia; Warren Cooper of New Zealand; Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak of Malaysia; the Earl Of Aaron, who is the parliamentary under-secretary of state for the Armed Forces of Britian; and Singapore's Second Minister of Defense Dr. Yeo Ning Hong. Also present were the chiefs of the armed forces of the five member countries.

The defense ministers will leave for Pulau Tioman tomorrow to witness the launch of a two-week joint naval and air exercise of the FPDA, code-named "Starfish," in the South China Sea.

A joint statement issued after the four-hour meeting said the ministers discussed and exchanged views on regional strategic development and matters pertaining to the FPDA. The ministers expressed their satisfaction with the current level of cooperation among the members and felt that there is good momentum for the FPDA's future progress.

They also reaffirmed FPDA's significance as a viable constructive mechanism for the defense of Malaysia and Singapore from external aggression.

Agreement on Commission With Indonesia Signed

BK0305145291 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Malaysia and Indonesia today signed a memorandum of understanding, MOU, on the setting up of a joint commission to enhance relations and step up cooperation between the two countries.

The MOU was signed by Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaafar on behalf of the Malaysian Government. Indonesia was represented by its Director-General for Political Affairs of the Foreign Affairs Department S. Wiriono.

The Malaysian-Indonesian joint commission is expected to hold its inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur in September. Malaysia had a similar joint commission with Thailand.

Senior government officials from Malaysia and Indonesia who began a three-day meeting yesterday have identified several issues which will be taken up at the first joint commission meeting. The issues include the plight of Indonesian citizens awaiting trial for crimes committed in Malaysia, and fishermen from both countries apprehended for illegal fishing. Others are more Malaysia Airlines, MAS, flights to Indonesia and launching a second joint hydrographic survey of the Straits of Melaka.

Singapore

Reportage on Visit of Japan's Kaifu Continues

Kaifu Urges Regional Cooperation

BK0305150491 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Japan has called on all nations to work together to strengthen the regional and global framework for international cooperation. Mr. Toshiki Kaifu said this will ensure peace and that the benefits of prosperity can be enjoyed by the entire international community.

Mr. Kaifu, who is in Singapore for a three-day official visit [said] this in a policy speech today. He said ASEAN countries and the other nations of the Asia-Pacific region occupy an important place in the management of the world economy and in this respect, ASEAN and the rest of Asia will continue to be the priority focus for Japanese development assistance. He said the prompt and successful conclusion of the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] Uruguay Round should be one of the top priority issues for this region.

Mr. Kaifu also commented on Malaysia's proposal for an East Asian Economic Grouping [EAEG]. He said any regional economic cooperation should promote cooperation and forestall any move toward trade protectionism. [Words indistinct] are fundamental Japan will consider appropriate ways to [word indistinct] regional economic cooperation.

On Japan's political role, he resolved that his country will never again repeat its past actions. He expressed his sincere contrition and Japan now hopes to play an appropriate role in this political sphere as a nation of peace.

But the issue of peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region can not be realisticly discussed without the U.S. role. Japan recognizes that America's presence here is crucial and hopes the U.S. will continue to play a positive role.

Mr. Kaifu later held talks with the senior minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. He expressed hope that Mr. Lee would continue to share his [word indistinct] knowledge in enhancing the good relations between Singapore and Japan and ASEAN and Japan.

Mr. Lee for his part noted that one of the highlights of Mr. Kaifu's policy speech was his [word indistinct] of sincere contrition as past Japanese action which inflicted sufferings upon many people in the Asia-Pacific region.

A spokesman for the Japanese delegation said Mr. Lee appreciated this as a step in the direction Japan should be taking to play a fuller and more active role in the world.

Kaifu on Regional, Global Trade

BK0305071991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0420 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Singapore, May 3 (AFP)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed Friday "sincere contrition" for his country's wartime past in a gesture aimed at paving the way for Tokyo to play a larger political role in Asia.

In a speech delivered as the keynote of a 10-day Southeast Asian tour, Mr. Kaifu pledged stepped-up efforts to boost regional cooperation on all fronts and said Tokyo was ready to make "personnel contributions" to help maintain world peace.

But Mr. Kaifu said that as Japan assumed a higher political profile in a region where it was an occupying force a half century ago, it has to come to terms with its actions during World War II.

"I express our sincere contrition at Japanese past actions which inflicted unbearable suffering and sorrow upon a great many people of the Asia-Pacific region," he told a gathering of officials, diplomats and business leaders.

"The Japanese people are firmly resolved never again to repeat those actions which had tragic consequences," the prime minister said, promising redoubled efforts to make sure his country's youth had a "full and accurate grasp of history."

An official travelling with Mr. Kaifu said the remarks were the most direct apology ever delivered by a Japanese leader to Southeast Asian countries and were aimed at shedding any "historical baggage" that could hamper further development of relations.

Mr. Kaifu said Tokyo would increase efforts to foster economic growth in Southheast Asia, making the region a priority for aid, opening its markets further to imports and promoting investment and technology transfers.

But he said he also sought a more "mature" relationship with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which went further than simply bilateral concerns.

"We need to go beyond the economic realm and work in political, social and foreign realms as well as to become a major force for stability grounded in freedom and democracy," Mr. Kaifu said.

A fierce debate has been raging in Japan on its world role, fueled by criticism of its contribution to the allied effort in the Gulf war, where it sent money but no troops.

Mr. Kaifu said there was a question whether financial contributions alone were sufficient. "Japan thus is determined to make personnel contributions an important part of our cooperation for peace."

He stressed, however, that this did not represent any change in Japanese policy and "this action does not mean that Japan is assuming a military role in the international community."

Despite Tokyo's move to dispatch minesweepers to the Gulf this week, its first overseas deployment since World War II, Japanese officials said there was still a dispute at home over the nature of eventual participation in UN peacekeeping activities.

They said that among the questions were whether such manpower would come from within or outside Japan's Self-Defense Forces or be restricted to support instead of combat roles.

Mr. Kaifu made it clear that any Japanese actions would come within the framework of its security alliance with the United States. He said the U.S. presence in Asia was crucial as a "stabilising factor not only in the military sense but in the political sense."

The prime minister said Japan would continue its efforts to help settle the 12-year-old Cambodian conflict and was ready to host an international conference on reconstruction of all of Indochina "at an appropriate time."

Japan would work to encourage openness and reforms in China, which Mr. Kaifu hopes to visit this year, and reduce tensions between the Koreas, he said.

Despite the continuing dispute between Moscow and Tokyo over the Kuril Islands, Mr. Kaifu had kind words for Soviet efforts on Cambodia and Korea.

"I believe it is precisely through its constructive efforts for the resolution of such specific regional issues that the Soviet Union can come to be accepted as a responsible partner in the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

On international trade, Mr. Kaifu said that one of Asia's top priorities should be the successful conclusion of the Uruguay round of mulitateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The talks broke down last year over the question of farm subsidies.

The Japanese leader also said the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum launched by Australia in 1989 was becoming an "engine of stability and prosperity" but he was more reserved about Malaysia's proposal for an East Asia Economic Grouping (EAEG).

"It goes without saying that any regional economic cooperation in our region should, beyond anything, aim at forestalling any move towards trade protectionism and promoting cooperation to the outside world," he said.

"Bearing this in mind as the fundamentals for our cooperation, we will consider appropriate ways for our regional economic cooperation," Mr. Kaifu said.

Malaysia first presented the EAEG, which unlike APEC does not include the United States, as a potential trade bloc. But it now sees EAEG more as a bargaining agent on trade issues with regional groupings in Europe and the Americas.

Mr. Kaifu, who arrived here for talks Thursday, was to meet later Friday with former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, currently senior minister in the new government.

The Japanese leader will head Saturday for the Philippines on the last leg of a swing through five of the six ASEAN countries that has already taken him to Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.

Mr. Kaifu visited the sixth country, Indonesia, last year.

Kaifu on SDF Role in Cambodia

BK0305121291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Singapore, May 3 (AFP)—Japan will contribute personnel to eventual peacekeeping efforts in Cambodia but needs new legislation before it can send members of its Self Defense Forces (SDF), Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Friday.

Mr. Kaifu also reiterated Tokyo's offer, first made Thursday, to host an international conference on the reconstruction of Indochina. But he said this could come only after settlement of the conflict pitting the Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh against three resistance factions.

He made his remarks at a news conference here after delivering a major speech on the larger political role Japan plans to assume in Asia and the world in keeping with its economic strength.

The Japanese leader, who dispatched minesweepers to the Gulf one week ago in his country's first overseas military deployment since World War II, said Tokyo was ready to help maintain an eventual peace in Cambodia.

"What is possible under the current Japanese system and institutions is something that we will go ahead with, for example sending a peace officer or election observers," Mr. Kaifu said.

"There would be no problem in sending private individuals as well," he added.

But the prime minister, whose Constitution bars the use of Japanese troops in international disputes, could not say whether it would be possible to send members of the SDF to Cambodia.

"The ruling and opposition parties (in Japan) are engaged in an effort to formulate a legislative proposal concerning such personnel cooperation," he said.

Before Mr. Kaifu left on his current tour of Southeast Asia, Tokyo officials had said he would announce Japan's determination to take necessary domestic steps to contribute personnel to U.N. peacekeeping activities.

But his policy speech made no mention of this and one official said privately that the omission reflected the continuing lack of domestic political consensus on the use of Japanese military personnel overseas.

In his speech, Mr. Kaifu said Japan would work to foster cooperation between the Indochinese states and their non-communist neighbors as a means of ensuring lasting peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

He said Tokyo was prepared to host an international conference "at an appropriate time for the purpose of future reconstruction in Cambodia and all of Indochina."

The prime minister specified at the news conference, however, that the first step had to be full agreement among the four factions on a peace plan sponsored by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The plan calls for U.N. administration of the country pending free elections with the Supreme National Council (SNC), formed last year, embodying Cambodian sovereignty.

"It is after that, when peace is achieved, that the international conference on Cambodian reconstruction will be held under the Japanese initiative," Mr. Kaifu said.

"When that comes we should like to see a very candid exchange of views what kind of cooperation is possible, what are the wishes of the Indochinese countries themselves as well as the wishes of the neighboring Asian countries," he said.

Minesweeping Mission's Value Viewed

OW0305085791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0735 GMT 3 May 91

[by Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Singapore, May 3 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Friday four Southeast Asian leaders have shown understanding of Japan's minesweeping mission to the Persian Gulf and he promised to convince China that the mission is peaceful.

During his five-nation Southeast Asian tour this week, the leaders of Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, and Singapore have told him that they accepted his explanation that the minesweeper mission is Japan's contributions to world peace, Kaifu said at a press conference.

Kaifu will visit the Philippines on Saturday on the last leg of his trip.

China initially reacted sharply last week to the move, Japan's first overseas military mission since World War II, calling it "a dangerous first step in sending troops abroad."

Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin, however, indicated he understood the situation surrounding the minesweeping mission in a meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in Beijing on Friday.

Kaifu said he will continue explaining the mission to China and during a policy speech earlier in the day he said he hopes to visit China as soon as possible this year.

He said the leaders of the four nations also understood Japan's intention to seek a more visible presence in efforts to build world peace and stability by using political as well as economic means.

They shared the view that Japan's security arrangements with the United States are important not only for Tokyo but for Asia and the Pacific as part of a regional security framework, Kaifu said.

In the speech, Kaifu expressed Japan's "sincere contrition" for its wartime atrocities and stressed the need for education about Japan's wartime history.

At the press conference, he said Japan will give young people "proper" education on the matter, referring to concerns in Asian countries that Japan's school textbooks are screened so they downplay World War II.

Asked about Japan's initiative to help resolve the 12-year Cambodian conflict, Kaifu said all four warring parties should first reach full agreement on a U.N.-brokered peace plan.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, head of the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government, indicated during his unofficial visit to Tokyo last week that his government will study further Japan's informal proposals to supplement the peace plan, Kaifu said.

In Bangkok on Wednesday, Kaifu conferred with leaders of the tripartite resistance coalition fighting the Phnom Penh government. The guerrilla leaders urged Japan to persuade Phnom Penh to accept the peace plan, he said.

Also during the press conference, Kaifu said he understood the rationale for Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's proposal to set up an East Asian economic group.

He said, however, that any regional economic cooperation should be open to outsiders and not be an exclusive bloc because the region's fast economic growth is based on free trade.

Kaifu on Higher Political Profile

OW0305054291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0427 GMT 3 May 91

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Singapore, May 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Friday Japan will take on a higher political profile in the Asia-Pacific area as a nation of peace, and expressed Tokyo's contrition over its wartime actions in the clearest words ever used by a Japanese leader.

"As Japan goes on to play a more active political role, we should remind ourselves of how we perceive our past history," he said in a speech before some 300 people in Singapore.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II in the Pacific.

"I express our sincere contrition for past Japanese actions which inflicted unbearable suffering and sorrow upon a great many people of the Asia-Pacific region," Kaifu said.

Renewing Japan's pledge "never again to repeat those actions which had tragic consequences," he said the nation "hopes to play an appropriate role in the political sphere as a nation of peace."

During his speech on the fourth leg of his five-nation Southeast Asian tour, Kaifu said he "acutely" feels Japan is expected to make even greater contributions in the region in both economic and political spheres.

One of those contributions is Japan's own initiative to resolve the 12-year Cambodian civil war, he said.

Kaifu met Cambodian resistance leaders Wednesday in Bangkok, the third stop of his 10-day trip, and urged them to honor a voluntary ceasefire accepted by all warring parties, including the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government.

In his speech, he offered to sponsor an international conference on the reconstruction of Cambodia and the rest of Indochina "at an appropriate time."

Kaifu also said he hopes to visit China as soon as possible this year to help that country's modernization efforts. He said reforms and openness in China are "extremely important" for regional stability and security.

On Thursday, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong told Kaifu he will support a greater Japanese political role only if it is within the U.S. security umbrella, warning Tokyo against doing [as received] its own way.

Echoing this, Kaifu said the security arrangements with the U.S. provide an important framework for peace and stability in the Asia- Pacific region and expressed hope that the U.S. "will continue to play a positive role as an active Pacific power."

The recent Persian Gulf crisis gave the Japanese an opportunity to seriously consider what specific measures the country can and should take in world peace efforts, Kaifu said.

For example, Japan could make personnel contributions such as the recent deployment of minesweepers to the Gulf, he said, seeking to allay lingering concern in some Asian countries about a revival of Japanese militarism.

The minesweeping mission "does not mean that Japan is assuming a military role," Kaifu said. It also "does not represent any change in Japan's basic defense policy," he said.

It was the sixth time since a speech by then Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda in 1977 that a Japanese premier has given a policy speech in Southeast Asia.

Kaifu's address was sponsored by three Singapore think tanks, including the Institute for Policy Studies.

Kaifu said he is "fully aware" that Japan needs to be more active in supporting efforts by its regional partners to ensure economic development and social stability, and to strengthen their interdependence and resilience.

In this connection, he promised Japan would try to buy more from these countries and give them top priority for official development assistance.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has achieved "great success" in its "ambitious and courageous" effort to forge cooperation among its six member countries with different systems, religions, and cultural heritages, he said.

The ASEAN countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Brunei—"have provided a model of economic development by their blossoming nation-building efforts" combined with "creative entrepreneurship and hard work in the free market system," Kaifu said.

"I believe that Japan and ASEAN are becoming mature partners able to look seriously at what we can do for Asia-Pacific prosperity and to think and act together for our shared goals."

Despite the firm trust that underlies such a partnership, it is "impossible to eliminate the residual misunderstanding and prejudice on both sides all at once," Kaifu said.

He stressed the importance for greater human contact between Japan and ASEAN to make the trust "truly unshakable."

Dailies View Regret Statement

OW0405080191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Singapore, May 4 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's expression of contrition for Japan's past aggression in Asia hit the headlines of major Singapore dailies Saturday, while officials and analysts welcomed it as a good start for Japan's larger political role in the world.

In a speech before 300 people in Singapore on Friday, Kaifu expressed Tokyo's regret over its World War II actions in the clearest words ever used by a Japanese leader.

His comments also were the first in which he expressed regret to all of Asia, although in the past, he has done so individually to China, South Korea, and North Korea.

"Japan expresses sincere contrition," blared THE STRAITS TIMES newspaper on Saturday.

It also highlighted Kaifu's pledge that Japan will never repeat its wartime atrocities and that the government will educate its youth about the war.

Kaifu said at a news conference after his speech that the government will review history textbooks' sections on the war.

Almost the same headline was echoed in Singapore's largest Chinese language daily, LIANHE ZAOBAO.

Former Singaporean prime minister, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, said that Kaifu's expression of contrition was a step in the right direction that Japan needed to take as it seeks a bigger role on the world stage.

Asked about Singaporeans' reactions to Japan's contrition, one journalist who did not want to be identified said Singaporeans are likely to feel that "Japan is making an effort to redeem themselves and this could be a new beginning."

"It will have a lot of impact on Singaporeans, especially on the Chinese, because no Japanese prime minister has ever said it to this region," he said.

Thousands of Chinese civilians were massacred by Japanese soldiers when they occupied Malaya during World War II.

"That's a good start in the sense that it is a public apology. This is in the right direction. It will put us at another level of relations with Japan," said Ng Chee Yuen, a senior fellow and coordinator of Japan studies at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. The institute was one of the sponsors of Kaifu's address.

But Ng also said there was really nothing new in Japan's new policy toward the region as outlined by Kaifu.

"There's little concrete sort of policy. He said Japan will open its door more and cooperate better with this part of the world but this is all very wishy-washy."

It was the sixth time since a speech by Takeo Fukuda in 1977 that a Japanese prime minister has given a policy speech in Southeast Asia.

Ng said that compared with Kaifu's predecessors who were "more affirmative and clearer in terms of what they wanted to do, Kaifu quoted his polices in very general terms."

He said this could be due to Kaifu's political problems at home, a view repeated by analysts at other institutions.

"I had expected something more of a doctrine but the way Kaifu has enveloped the perspective on Japan's global role is very prudent and less assertive than we had expected," said an Asian analyst at another institution who did not want to be identified.

John Wong, director of the Institute of East Asian Philosophies, said there was nothing new in Kaifu's speech, "but in terms of intention, it's quite good because it shows the Japanese are getting more serious about this part of the world."

"Psychologically, it's good," said Lee Lai Toh, director of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs.

Others were more skeptical.

Wong Ping Fah, an editorial writer for LIANHE ZAOBAO and a keen observer of Japan, said people in the region will not take Japan's contrition seriously unless it is accompanied by actions such as printing a more accurate account of the war in textbooks.

"It's good that the leaders of Japan apologize," said Wong, referring to Kaifu's comments. "But if they don't have actions to support their words, it will become meaningless."

Another local journalist who was born just after the war said he was disappointed that Kaifu only expressed contrition but did not apologize.

A journalist in her 20s, who was one of the many younger local reporters covering Kaifu's visit, said the expression of contrition had little significance for her. "The war just doesn't bother me," she said.

Cambodia

SPK Reports Hor Namhong's AFP Interview

BK0405130191 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1140 GMT 4 May 91

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 4 May (SPK)—The Phnom Penh government wishes that the cease-fire, put in place on Wednesday in Cambodia, be extended until the signing of a peace agreement on Cambodia and not until the inter-Cambodian meeting planned for early June in Jakarta, announced Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong on Thursday [2 May], cited by AFP.

Hor Namhong, on a private visit to France, indicated during an interview with AFP that Phnom Penh is "prepared to take part in the Jakarta meeting" of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], which groups representatives of the four Cambodian factions within the framework of the Paris international conference. France has proposed that this meeting be held on 2 June.

Hor Namhong, who was received by a French Foreign Ministry representative, specified that Phnom Penh will submit to the SNC for approval the changes it recently made among its six representatives. He expressed skepticism over the announcement by the opposition concerning the cease-fire violation by Phnom Penh. "We have been proposing a cease-fire for a long time, and it is not in our interests to break it," he said.

The Phnom Penh chief diplomat said he hoped that "the acceptance of the cease-fire by the Khmer Rouge is sincere "and that this cease-fire will not be taken advantage of by the Khmer Rouge to reorganize their forces." According to him, a return to power of the Khmer Rouge through a political solution is "a very concrete threat."

The minister said he is in favor of the end of "all arms supplies" to parties to the conflict, assuring that Phnom Penh has received "no weapon or ammunition" from the USSR since the end of 1990. He affirmed that Phnom Penh however has been "helped greatly by the seizure of weapons" from the guerrillas, saying "a thousand tonnes" of weapons were seized in February-March.

Furthermore, Hor Namhong affirmed that the elections planned for 1992 by the Phnom Penh government are not a maneuver "aimed at replacing elections within the UN framework. "The mandate of our deputies has expired, he explained. However, if there is a political solution, new elections should be held."

The minister finally said that "the Cambodian problem should not always be linked to that of Vietnam." "Despite the two countries' friendship, the Cambodian issue is a specific one," he said.

Hun Sen Sends Message on Monitoring Cease-Fire

BK0605063791 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0430 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 6 May (SPK)—Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, on 4 May addressed a message to the cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN secretary general proposing the presence of neutral foreign observers to monitor the cease-fire in Cambodia that went into effect 1 May.

Hun Sen propose "that the voluntary cease-fire be immediately accompanied by the presence, wherever is possible, of neutral foreign observers acceptable to both sides to discourage eventual violations, increase mutual confidence, and pave the way for a formal cease-fire under UN international control."

Hun Sen reiterated his acceptance of this appeal which responds to the Cambodian people's aspiration for peace and to the proposals presented many times by the State of Cambodia Government to other Cambodian parties since 1987."

The cease-fire appeal, made on 22 April 1991 by the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference and the UN secretary general was accepted by all warring Cambodian parties.

However, as soon as it went into effect, the cease-fire was violated by the coalition's three factions which have launched many attacks against the State of Cambodia's positions.

Japan's Role in Settlement Process Viewed

BK0405035991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 May 91 p 6

[By Jacques Bekaert]

[Text] When Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen went to Japan for a medical check, he almost had an historic telephone conversation with arch-rival Prince Sihanouk. But the defective telephone system in Pyongyang, North Korea, foiled the attempt.

According to a reliable diplomatic source in Phnom Penh, Japan is still anxious to play a role in the peace process and offered to help him renew contact with Prince Sihanouk, the leader of the Khmer Resistance, who is in Pyongyang.

A senior Vietnamese source said the time had come for more bilateral contacts among Cambodian leaders "despite their deep suspicion of each other."

Apparently Prince Sihanouk agreed. He tried to talk to Hun Sen and a phone link between Tokyo and Pyongyang was arranged.

The call never got through for technical reasons. Telephone lines, one source said, were down in Pyongyang.

Hun Sen also told the Japanese he and his colleagues of the Phnom Penh Government and ruling party felt more comfortable with the so-called Japanese "non-paper," which they see as more balanced than the Permanent Five proposals.

Hun Sen said he may suggest the Japanese document be added to the Permanent Five proposal.

In recent weeks, Phnom Penh media have urged Prince Sihanouk to abandon his alliance with Son Sann and the Khmer Rouge which, in the words of Radio Phnom Penh, is "nothing but a genocidal alliance whose rotten core is covered up by a cosmetic veneer not unlike a rosy wild fig full of insects.

"Our people believe that if Sihanouk is really a patriot as he claims, he should abandon this criminal alliance and side with the people in jointly preventing at all cost the return of this evil regime," the official radio said.

The leadership in Phnom Penh is well aware of Sihanouk's persistent popularity among Khmers, several senior diplomatic sources said in Phnom Penh.

"They would stil like to see him on their side, rather than with the resistance," one diplomat said.

Sources in Phnom Penh said the government was taking comfort in the fact that the two so-called non-communist groups of the resistance, the Sihanoukists and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, were losing support of the West, especially the United States.

"This could help Sihanouk to revise his options," one source said.

VONADK Reports on Cease-Fire Violations

BK0605023191 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 5 May 91

["View of Battambang Province's Residents on the Violation by Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors and Their Traitorous Puppets—Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim—of the Cease-fire Call Launched by the Paris Conference Cochairmen and the UN Secretary General"]

[Text] According a report from Battambang Province, on 27 April, four or five army experts of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and the traitorous puppet leader called Pol Saroeun met in the provincial town to review the general situation on the Battambang battlefield and to map out a plan on launching offensives to retake liberated areas in Pailin, Samlot, and Banteay Ampel during the implementation of the cease-fire beginning 1 May.

The report adds that since 27 April, the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their traitorous Puppets Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim have zealously stepped up forcible draft of our people's children and trucked them to the Route 10-Battambang battlefield. Along with this, they have gathered several tanks and multiple rocket launchers from other battlefields and sent them to the aforesaid battlefield as well.

Our people in Battambang Province have been furious with the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and the traitorous puppet leaders, who have encroached upon the cease-fire call launched by the cochairmen of the Paris conference and the UN secretary general. They are of the opinion that the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors have never respected or implemented any agreement or treaty at all. For instance, in the war with the Americans between 1960 and 1975, the Hanoi Vietnamese authorities proposed a truce during the celebration of every Vietnamese new year. However, they took advantage of the cease-fire to mount vigorous offensives against the U.S. forces and the U.S. allied troops.

Now, in their war of aggression in Cambodia, the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors have again employed the outmoded stratagem. As a matter of fact, since 1 May the race- exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their traitorous puppets and lackeys have combined the Vietnamese troops in hiding in Cambodia and the puppet soldiers already stationed on the battlefield to launch offensives one after the other, such as on the Pailin-Route 10 battlefield; in Stoeng Trang and Chamka Leu Districts of Kompong Cham Province; in Kong Pisei, Phnum Sruoch, and Samraong Tong Districts in Kompong Speu Province and so on. This is about some major battlefields only. Along with this, there have also been numerous small-scale attacks systematically conducted in various positions and areas.

Our people hold that the violation of the truce committed by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and traitorous lackey puppets is for torpedoing the meeting between the Paris conference cochairmen and the four Cambodian parties to be held in Jakarta in the near future and for destroying UN documents, blocking the UN process of settling the Vietnamese war in Cambodia in accordance with the framework blueprint of the five UNSC [UN Security Council] permanent members.

The Cambodian people as well as the people of the peace-and justice-loving countries worldwide do not allow the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their traitorous lackey puppets, Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim, to stir up cloudbursts at will. They will intensely carry on all forms of struggle to bring stronger pressure on those enemies until they are forced to genuinely halt their war of aggression in Cambodia via a comprehensive political solution in compliance with the five UNSC permanent members' blueprint.

Son Sann Appeals to Vietnamese Leaders

BK0505094791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 May 91

["Unofficial translation" of "appeal made by Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, to the Hanoi Vietnamese leaders"; dated 4 May—read by announcer]

[Text] **Appeal to Vietnamese leaders in Hanoi**

After the war in the Persian Gulf following the decision by the U.S. President George Bush to establish a new order and following Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's initiative, the time has come to think about peace in Cambodia, a condition for peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The world, particularly the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC], the ASEAN countries, and Japan have been assisting in restoring peace in Cambodia.

This is the time for building our two countries, Cambodia and Vietnam, which are currently among countries which are poor in the world. To move toward this goal, our two countries should think before anything else of various means to start from now a necessary atmosphere of good neighborliness with good relations of friendship between our two countries which would benefit peace in our region and for major powers [words indistinct] and financial establishments in Asia and the world over to assist in rebuilding our two countries.

I would like to remind Vietnamese leaders that since the creation of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] in October 1979, I have made this appeal to the Cambodian and Vietnamese people to cooperate to gradually reduce the existing mutual hatred between our two countries because we are compelled to live next to one another. It is good for our mutual benefit to live with mutual understanding. Over many years, the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, as well as Japan, have been promising to rebuild Cambodia and also Vietnam. I have supported a type of plan to organize and build not only Cambodia but also Vietnam and Laos.

Today, I would like to make an urgent appeal to Vietnamese leaders in Hanoi, particularly the old personalities who have a good reputation in the struggle to liberate the country. We are nearing the 21st century. You are in a position to lose all your prestige because the continuation of the plan to commit aggression and expansion and to colonize Cambodia. You will certainly be defeated. You will lose the little prestige you have got left. In particular, you will lose your only chance to rebuild good relations of friendship with the United States and the PRC and also lose the opportunity to redress your country's economy. This is the hope to again provide well- being to your people, who are victims of the imperialistic adventure in Cambodia.

Through the aggression and occupation of Cambodia, you have soiled the reputation and heroism of the Vietnamese Army in its national liberation struggle and diverted its historic mission from its goal. General Vo Nguyen Giap has said that a liberation war will be victorious. This statement also holds true for Cambodia in our national liberation struggle. In 1955 in Bandung, Indonesia, His Excellency Pham Van Dong solemnly pledged to adhere to the Bandung peaceful coexistence principles. I would like to firmly suggest that, with respect to these peaceful coexistence principles, you stop interfering in Cambodia's internal affairs by withdrawing all your forces, namely troops, advisers, experts, and Vietnamese settlers who have settled with Vietnamese troops occupying Cambodia. You should stop providing advice to some Cambodian groups in order to allow all Cambodian people to agree and be reconciled among themselves in the supreme interests of their country and nation and for stability in east Asian countries.

The Khmer Rouge, who had been trained and armed to strengthen your forces in the 1970's to fight against the troops of Marshal Lon Nol, were your allies until the end of 1978. They were also your pretext for committing aggression against Cambodia on Christmas day in 1978 to occupy Cambodia to this day. Please leave this group to the Cambodian people who will deal with it with the support and assistance from the UNSC five permanent members and the ASEAN countries.

I will have the opportunity one day to make an appeal on this issue. Cambodia at peace after general and free elections will be an independent country with sovereignty and territorial integrity and genuine neutrality. It will abide by human rights principles on the basis of freedom, including religious freedom, and will not accept any foreign bases or troops, apart from UN troops to maintain peace. Cambodia, with the desire to establish relations of friendship and good neighborliness, will not refuse the signing of a treaty of peace and nonaggression with Vietnam, if the latter so desires.

[Dated] 4 May 1991

Sihanouk's Office Accuses SRV of Violating Truce

BK0505024091 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 4 May 91

["Press Communique of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's Personal Representative Office in Bangkok Denouncing Vietnam for Violating the Temporary Cease-fire"]

[Text] The following is the text of the press communique:

At 1600 on 1 May in Varin District of Siem Reap Province, 300 enemy soldiers from the L-367 regiment with two T-54 tanks attacked the Sihanoukist Army's 6th battalion stationed in Varin District of Siem Reap Province. The Phnom Penh puppet troops fired many rounds of 85-mm, 82-mm, and 75-mm cannons on our positions.

At 1300 [as heard] on 1 May the enemies were reportedly continuing their offensives.

The enemies recently sent 300 reinforcement troops from the L-5 regiment of Division 286 to Srei Snam area.

At 1600 on 1 May the Phnom Penh troops with four T-54 tanks attacked the Sihanoukist forces at Srei Snam in Siem Reap Province. The fighting was going on at 1300 [as heard] on the same day.

NADK Communique Issued on Truce Violations

BK0505012991 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 4 May 91

["Press Communique of the Spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea's [NADK] Supreme Command on the Hanoi Authorities and Their Phnom Penh Lackey Puppets' Violation of the Temporary Cease- fire Call of the Cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN Secretary General"; dated 4 May—read by announcer]

[Text] After the three Cambodian resistance forces and the Phnom Penh side agreed to implement the appeal launched by the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN secretary general calling for a temporary cease-fire in Cambodia from 1 May, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their Phnom Penh lackey puppets marshalled a great many army divisions to continue attacking our Cambodian national forces on the Route 10-Battambang battlefield.

1. On 1 May the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their Phnom Penh lackey puppets gathered 2,100 troops with many tanks and artillery pieces to mount attacks on our national resistance forces' liberated areas at Bakak and O Don Ta, north of Route 10.

2. On 2 May they continued attacking us by launching a three- pronged-onslaught on our national resistance forces' liberated areas, north of Route 10, toward Chileanh and Chramoh Phnum Veng. They also conducted a two-pronged attack on our national resistance forces' liberated areas, south of Route 10.

3. On the morning of 3 May they sent troop reinforcements to attack our national resistance forces' liberated areas, north and south of Route 10. The enemy troops attacking our liberated areas on the morning of 3 May were made up of Vietnamese Divisions 330, 4, and 8, the puppet divisions 4, 196, and 6, and the Phnom Penh division in which Vietnamese soldiers were incorporated.

This is undeniably clear evidence that the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their Phnom Penh lackey puppets have arrogantly and barbarously encroached upon the call by the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN secretary general for a temporary cease-fire, beginning 1 May—a cease-fire which they had solemnly pledged to the world to implement.

[Dated] 4 May 1991

[Signed] The spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea Supreme Command

Sihanouk Rejects Hun Sen Meeting Offer

BK0405041991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0355 GMT 4 May 91

[Excerpts] Bangkok, May 4 (AFP)—Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has turned down Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen's offer of a meeting, diplomats and Cambodian sources said here Saturday.

Mr. Hun Sen's proposal was conveyed last month to Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia's former king, by an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) stationed in Pyongyang, where the prince is currently staying, the sources said.

The offer was conveyed to the prince when Mr. Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge military commander who defected before Vietnam's 1978 invasion of Cambodia, was in Tokyo for unspecified medical checks, they said.

Prince Sihanouk replied through the PLO that he would eventually agree to meet Mr. Hun Sen in Jakarta, where the Supreme National Council (SNC) is to meet in late May or early June, the sources reported.

The SNC was formed last year grouping representatives of the Phnom Penh Government and the three resistance factions—the Khmer Rouge, Prince Sihanouk's faction and that of former prime minister Son Sann—under a United Nations peace plan.

Although the prince is not a member of the SNC, he would travel to the Indonesian capital at the time of the meeting if he were personally invited to do so by Indonesian President Suharto, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Officials of the prince's faction denied a report in Saturday's English-language BANGKOK POST that Prince Sihanouk had tried to telephone Mr. Hun Sen in Tokyo.

According to the report, the attempt failed because telephone lines were down in Pyongyang.

Resistance Leaders, Japan's Kaifu Meet in Bangkok

BK0405073391 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] On 1 May, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who was visiting Bangkok, Thailand, held talks with Son Sann, prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia; Khieu Samphan, Cambodian vice president in charge of foreign affairs; and Prince Ranariddh, personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

The Japanese prime minister and the leaders of the Cambodian tripartite coalition discussed a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem.

On the occasion, Son Sann emphasized that the crux of the Cambodian settlement is that the Phnom Penh side must accept the already presented peace plan, which is the framework document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC].

For his part, Khieu Samphan said Japan should strive to urge Vietnam and the Phnom Penh group to accept the peace plan. He stressed that national reconciliation in Cambodia can only be achieved if Vietnam completely withdraws its troops from Cambodia.

Toshiki Kaifu said Japan, as an Asian country, has a strong desire to see peace restored to Cambodia at an early date and that Japan supports the framework blueprint of the five permanent members of the UNSC and wants to help unite all the Cambodian parties to bring about implementation of the UNSC plan.

Japan Urged To Pressure SRV

BK0505005991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] At a meeting [on 1 May] with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Bangkok, His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia [NGC], asked Japan to use its influence to urge Hanoi to accept the peace plan of the United Nations, saying before holding an international conference in Paris on reconstruction of Cambodia, that all the Cambodian parties should first accept the UN peace plan.

At the talks with Toshiki Kaifu, His Excellency Son Sann asked Japan to maintain its economic sanctions against Vietnam and use its influence to compel Vietnam and the regime it has installed in Phnom Penh to accept the UN peace plan.

His Excellency Son Sann, in his capacity as prime minister of the NGC, welcomed Japan's efforts in seeking peace for Cambodia. However, he stressed that the last stumbling block to the Cambodian peace process is the refusal by Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime to fully accept the UN peace plan forged by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. He called on Japan to provide an aid fund of $1 million via the Cambodian Supreme National Council, claiming this is better than through relief organizations that have direct contact with the Phnom Penh regime. He also requested that Japan provide vocational training to the Cambodian people after the war.

Further on Meeting

BK0405012891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 May 91 pp A1, A2

[By Somphong Kitthinarathon]

[Text] Cambodian resistance leaders have urged Tokyo to exert influence over Hanoi to win its acceptance of the United Nations' peace plan, countering Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's call for "mutual concessions" by all factions to achieve an early settlement.

One of the three Cambodian resistance leaders described the UN peace plan as "the best compromise."

Kaifu called for "mutual concessions," strict observance of the voluntary ceasefire in Cambodia by all sides, and an early reconvention of the Supreme National Council [SNC], comprising representatives of the rival Cambodian groups, in his talks with resistance leaders in Bangkok last Wednesday.

Kaifu met with leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and former premier Son Sann, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and Prince Norodom Ranariddh of the Sihanoukist movement for the talks.

The Japanese prime minister also downplayed Japan's increased role in Cambodia, saying Japan was only co-ordinating with concerned parties and countries to try to achieve a breakthrough in Cambodia.

In his response to Kaifu's prepared statement, Son Sann, speaking as prime minister of the coalition resistance, welcomed Japan's peace efforts.

But he said the last stumbling block to a peace settlement in Cambodia was the refusal by Vietnam and the Phnom Penh Government to accept the peace plan outlined by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

Son Sann urged Japan to maintain the economic embargo on Vietnam and exert its influence to force Vietnam and Phnom Penh to endorse the UN plan.

Before the Paris Conference on Cambodia and an international conference in Tokyo on rebuilding Cambodia can take place, all parties must first accept the UN peace framework, Son Sann said.

Khieu Samphan, backing Son Sann's statement, said he was convinced Tokyo had the ability to influence Vietnam.

Khieu also questioned Vietnam's willingness to accept the peace plan which, among other things, called for a UN peacekeeping force to verify the Vietnamese military presence.

Prince Ranariddh, the last of the three leaders to respond to Kaifu's calls, told the Japanese prime minister that he agreed with all points made by his two colleagues.

He reiterated former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk's position that the peace plan outlined by the UN Security Council permanent members was an effective way to achieve peace in Cambodia.

A resistance source, stressing that he was expressing his personal view, said he was caught by surprise by Kaifu's call for the resistance forces to make "mutual concessions."

"The resistance has made one concession after another because we want to end the Cambodian war and the suffering of the Cambodian people," said the source, who asked not to be identified.

At the meeting, Son Sann called on Japan to channel its US$1 million humanitarian aid for Cambodia through the SNC rather than putting it through UN relief organizations which dealt directly with the Phnom Penh Government.

But Kaifu said that would be difficult because the SNC had not started functioning.

The two sides agreed Japan would play a significant role in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia after the political settlement. Kaifu said Cambodia had great "potential" for future development while Son Sann asked that Japan provide training for Cambodians after the war.

As the meeting drew to a close, Kaifu reiterated Japan's intention to maintain dialogue with all parties to help break the Cambodian stalemate. Foreign Minister Nakayama would soon visit Vietnam to pursue the Japanese peace efforts, he said.

He also authorized Tadashi Ikeda, a senior Bangkok-based Japanese diplomat, to maintain contact with the resistance movement.

Nakayama visited Prince Sihanouk in Pyongyang early last month to persuade him to go to Jakarta for the planned meeting between rival Cambodian leaders and the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference, and to Paris if the Jakarta peace talks were a success.

The prince said he was willing to visit both Jakarta and Paris if he was invited by the hosts, but added that he would not participate in the peace conference because he was not a member of the SNC.

Nakayama also pushed for Sihanouk's support for Tokyo's "non-paper" ideas, which are so named because Japan wants to stress they are informal ideas only.

The prince told the Japanese minister that his FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] group and the KPNLF did not have strong objections to the ideas, as the Khmer Rouge did. The proposal dwells on means of preventing the Khmer Rouge from returning to power.

If the Khmer Rouge approved the Japanese initiative, the other two factions would also agree, the prince informed Nakayama.

He asked the minister if Japan could invite Khieu Samphan to a meeting with the prince, either in Beijing or Pyongyang.

Not long after the meeting, the Japanese ambassador to Pyongyang, apparently acting on instruction from Tokyo, asked the prince to help arrange the meeting with Khieu Samphan. The meeting was expected to take place somewhere between April 10-14 but Khieu politely declined the invitation, saying he was busy during the period.

Objectives to Japanese Plan Viewed

BK0505032991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 May 91 p A4

[Article by Somphong Kittinarathon: "Why Tokyo's Plan Upset the Resistance"]

[Text] In part, Cambodian resistance groups have been reluctant to accept Japan's peace ideas because they contradicted the peace framework for Cambodia outlined by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), resistance sources say.

There are three major elements in the "non-paper" proposal which a senior Japanese diplomat first raised with former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the three resistance leaders during their meeting in Beijing last March.

The first element is Japan's call for the resistance groups to recognize a controversial explanatory note by UN special envoy Rafiuddin Ahmed for inclusion in the Permanent Five peace plan as an official UN text.

Resistance sources said they had earlier rejected the call to recognize the envoy's explanatory note in part because it was requested by Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen.

"We don't have any doubts on how to interpret the UN peace plan, and if Mr Hun Sen wants any explanatory note from Mr Rafiuddin Ahmed, then the note should be referred to Hun Sen, and not the resistance," one resistance source, who asked not to be named, said.

"We have made it clear that we have nothing against the UN special envoy but we cannot accept his explanatory note as an official text."

The source said that accepting the explanatory note would also be harmful to further peace conferences on Cambodia because Hun Sen could refer to the explanatory note as an official text, causing confusion as to the real meaning of the UN peace plan.

"Our approach is for all sides to accept the UN plan in principle before we discuss practical details when we come to the stage of implementation," he added.

The resistance also contended that the explanatory note contradicted the UN peace plan because under the UN special envoy's written explanation, the Phnom Penh Government's police force, known as A-3 command, would be retained and used by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

But under the UN peace plan, it was clearly stipulated that all military, paramilitary, provincial and local forces would be disarmed.

The A-3 police force is a paramilitary force and its presence could intimidate voters and influence their decisions, the resistance source argued.

The second element in Japan's peace proposal was an effort to map out practical steps for the disarming of all four Cambodian forces, which was mentioned in the UN peace plan as a matter of principle without any details.

Tokyo proposed three steps to achieve disarmament:

—A voluntary ceasefire by all warring forces would precede the arrival of UN teams which would thoroughly check all caches and arsenals of Cambodian forces;

—Destruction of the caches and arsenals would be verified and guaranteed by the UN teams; and

—Disarmament of all Cambodian forces.

Under the proposal, any of the four factions found by the UN teams to have violated agreements in any of these three steps could be deprived of their right to stand in the general election.

The resistance source said the movement had to study this particular proposal carefully because precluding an entire party from the election represented a very severe punishment.

"What if one faction had their troops disguise themselves as troops of another force and intentionally breached the agreements? Here is an example of qustions which have yet to be addressed and discussed," the source said.

The third major element of Japan's non-paper proposal was the formation of a special committee comprising UNTAC, SNC and international relief organization officials. The special committee would be empowered to devise measures to ensure the so-called non- return of the Khmer Rouge to power.

The Khmer Rouge, officially named the Democratic Kampuchea Party after the movement renounced communist ideologies, is believed to be particularly unhappy with the proposal which singles out its past brutal record.

The resistance source said as long as the resistance had not rejected the proposal, it could not be considered dead.

Son Sann Urges SRV To Withdraw in Statement

BK0505004891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1835 GMT 4 May 91

[Excerpts] Bangkok, May 4 (AFP)—Cambodian non-communist resistance leader Son Sann has called on Vietnam to end its involvement in Cambodia and thus pave the way for international humanitarian aid to both countries.

In a statement released Saturday, the 79-year-old former conservative prime minister called on Hanoi to withdraw the last of its military advisors and civilian settlers, who he said remained in Cambodia more than 12 years after Hanoi installed a client regime in Phnom Penh in 1979.

The statement was issued in response to an appeal by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to the warring Cambodian factions to respect a temporary cease-fire, which both sides have accused the other of violating.

Appealing to Hanoi's communist "old guard" to abandon what he described as a blueprint to colonize the two neighboring Indochinese states of Cambodia and Laos, he said: "You will fail."

"You will lose the little reputation left to you, but above all you will lose the only chance to re-establish your good relationship with the United States and the People's Republic of China and to keep afloat your economy," Mr. Son Sann said. [passage omitted]

Noting that Vietnam and Cambodia were among the world's poorest nations, Mr. Son Sann, who is president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), said: "We must above all think of the means ... for the big powers, Japan and the financial organizations of Asia and the world over, to help us rebuild our two countries."

The appeal followed the release by the United States of seven million dollars in humanitarian aid to Cambodia's non-communist resistance factions—the KPNLF and the followers of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. [passage omitted]

"As for the Khmer Rouge ... leave them to the Cambodian people," Mr. Son Sann said. [passage omitted]

Ranariddh Meets With Singapore Prime Minister

BK0405084291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia, supreme commander, and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia, held talks with the Singapore Prime Minister. The prime minister told him that Singapore supports the Cambodian resistance movement's stance on a solution to the Cambodian problem and promises to continue providing the necessary aid to the noncommunist Cambodian resistance movement.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh recently visited Singapore. Yesterday on Friday, he held talks with Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong. During the talks, Goh Chok Tong said Singapore supports the Cambodian resistance movement's stance on a solution to the Cambodian problem and the peace plan the five permanent members of the UN Security Council have worked out for Cambodia. He also said Singapore will continue to support and provide all the necessary assistance to wage the national liberation struggle and achieve the Cambodian people's goal.

U.S. Senators Arrive for Fact-Finding Visit

BK0305123891 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] On the morning of 3 May, a delegation of U.S. senators led by John Kerry, U.S. Senate member from the Democratic Party, arrived in the State of Cambodia for a fact-finding visit to Cambodia in order to report to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee for help to accelerate the process for peace in Cambodia.

Welcoming the delegation at Pochentong Airport were Comrade Long Visalo, deputy foreign minister; Comrade Cheam Yiep, director of Cambodian Tourism Department; Comrade (Sar Sambat), head of the State of Cambodia Foreign Ministry's American Department; and many cadres from the Foreign Ministry.

Further on Delegations' Visit

BK0605072491 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] On 4 May the delegation from the U.S. Senate led by John Kerry visited the workshop producing artificial limbs at (Vat Than) and the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide.

Afterward, the delegation paid a courtesy call on Chairman of the National Assembly Comrade Chea Sim at the office of the National Assembly. Comrade Chairman Chea Sim welcomed and thanked the delegation for the visit because the delegation can see for itself and also talked about the political and socioeconomic situation of the State of Cambodia.

Kerry told Comrade Chairman Chea Sim that the U.S. Senate, like himself, wants a speedy solution to the Cambodian problem. Kerry recognizes that there are difficulties in this peace process before everyone can support it. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and with reciprocal sincerity. Kerry reaffirmed his sentiments toward the Cambodian people. The delegation afterward visited the 7 January hospital and safely returned.

Circular on Foreign Currency, Gold Dealings

BK0305123191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 2 May 91

[Undated "Circular of the Council of Ministers on the Management of Currency Exchange and Trade in Precious Metals and Stones"]

[Text] In reference to Decree Law No. 22 concerning patent taxes, dated 14 June 1985, of the the Council of State; Decree Law No. 23 concerning business taxes, dated 14 June 1985, of the Council of State; the law on import-export goods taxes, dated 20 July 1989, of the National Assembly; in accordance with the spirit of the speech closing the 19th session of the first National Assembly on 9 August 1990 concerning the circulation of gold and foreign currencies outside banks; and at the proposal of the combined Finance Ministry-Cambodian National Bank, the Council of Ministers issues the following circular to temporarily govern the still disorderly currency exchange business.

1. Individuals or groups of individuals are prohibited from practicing currency exchange in a confused manner without permission because this would influence market prices and affect orderliness and social order as it has happened in the past.

2. Individuals or groups of individuals who want to practice currrency exchange legally should submit their demands for permision to the Finance Ministry and the Cambodian National Bank to open a premise with

proper address and label. The Finance Ministry and the Cambodian National Bank should set an appropriate time for providing guidance and granting permission to individuals or groups of individuals to open currency exchange premises to ensure orderliness, social order, and legality.

3. Currency exchange premises which have been granted permission should provide checks for daily buying and selling of currencies and regularly report according to a set schedule to the Finance Ministry and the Cambodian National Bank following the model to be issued by these two establishments. Dealers have the duty to pay taxes to the state in accordance with the State of Cambodia's general laws.

4. The Finance Ministry and the Cambodian National Bank should have measures to set the rules, provide guidance, and administer the premises currently trading in precious metals and stones to ensure that these premises have proper addresses, offices, branches, and properly labelled, with daily checks for buying and selling, pay sufficient and proper taxes to the state, and regularly report according to the model to be provided by the two establishments.

5. Cambodian and foreign individuals or legal persons are banned from circulating or attempting to circulate precious metals and stones outside the State of Cambodia's territory without prior permission from the Finance Ministry and the Cambodian National Bank. Foreigners and Cambodian residents abroad can, without a permit, take out currencies and precious metals and stones with a value equal or less than the amount declared at the entry point at the border.

6. Cambodian and foreign individuals or legal persons are banned from settling all kinds of transactions using banknotes within the State of Cambodia's territory. Those in possession of foreign currencies should exchange them for the Cambodian riel currency at commercial banks or at permitted currency exchange premises to settle transactions or open accounts to keep their money in permitted commercial banks.

Dealers, hotels, economic units, and owners of houses rented out to foreigners should sell their foreign currency income to commercial banks or deposit it in saving accounts at commercial banks. The Finance Ministry should keep track of and ensure that dealers, hotels, economic units, and owners of houses rented out to foreigners, and so on, periodically report their foreign currency income regularly and clearly.

7. Currency exchange premises which have been granted permission are allowed to buy foreign currency and travelers' checks from the local and foreign public and sell the above currencies and travelers checks to permitted commercial banks or to the Cambodian National Bank according to the periodically published daily rates.

8. The Cambodian National Bank, in agreement with the Finance Ministry, will determine and disseminate the exchange rates for use by permitted commercial banks and currency exchange premises.

9. In Phnom Penh in particular, the Finance Ministry and the Interior Ministry should cooperate in setting up a special group and an office to facilitate contacts with the public or legal persons. This special group has the task of controlling and keeping track of offenses or attempts to violate this circular.

10. Individuals who have reported or uncovered offenses, or attempts to commit offenses against this circular will receive rewards from the Finance Ministry and the Cambodian National Bank.

11. Those committing offenses or attempting to commit offenses against this circular for the first time will be warned in the form of public announcements placed in official newspapers, radio, and television. Those committing offenses or attempting to commit offenses for the second time will be educated or corrected in accordance with the degree and severity of their offenses.

12. The Finance Ministry, the Cambodian National Bank, the Interior Ministry, and all levels of state authorities should cooperate in implementing this circular effectively from the day it is made public.

Indonesia

Alatas Agrees To Host Cambodian SNC Meeting

BK0305113591 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1046 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Jakarta, May 3 (ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas stated here Friday [3 May] that Indonesia agreed to host a meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC) scheduled for 2-4 June here, if there was an official notice from France. He said that Indonesia is still awaiting France's confirmation on the proposed date for the SNC meeting. Earlier reports from Hanoi said that France has proposed to Indonesia that Cambodian [words indistinct], grouped in the Supreme National Council (SNC) to hold talks June 2-4 in Jakarta. France and Indonesia cochair the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC), which first met in August [word indistinct] in a bid to settle the 12-year Cambodian conflict. The SNC comprises six representatives of the Phnom Penh government, which is backed by Vietnem, and two from each of the three resistance factions. Formed last year, the SNC remains dogged by differences that are blocking implementation of a peace plan proposed by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Phnom Penh has rejected aspects of the plan, notably the demobilization of its armed forces during a transition period that would culminate in UN-supervised elections. Phnom Penh argues that the demobilization would pave the way for a return to power of the Khmer Rouge, since the disarming of the guerrilla faction would be more difficult to verify. The plan calls for the United Nations to play a major role during the transition period in administering Cambodia, supervising the demilitarization of the factions and overseeing a cease-fire. France, Indonesia, and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar last week appealed for the factions to observe a voluntary ceasefire at least until the SNC could meet.

Establishment of Joint Commission With Malaysia

BK0205154791 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Indonesia and Malaysia began two-day talks in Kuala Lumpur today to discuss the establishment of a joint commission in charge of solving bilateral problems. The establishment of the joint commission was agreed upon by the two countries' foreign ministers in Jakarta last month in an effort to strengthen cooperation and solve any potential problems.

Indonesian Ambassador to Malaysia Sunarso Jayusman said that at the meeting, the Indonesian delegation was headed by Wiryono, director general of political affairs of the Foreign Affairs Department, while the Malaysian delegation was headed by Kamil Jaafar, secretary general of the Malaysian Foreign Affairs Ministry. During the first-day meeting, it was among other things agreed that the commission will be jointly chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers. Existing bilateral commissions, such as the forestry commission, were also recognized.

Doubt Seen in Japanese Report on Forest Use

OW0305135791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Jakarta, May 3 (KYODO)—An Indonesian environmental organization said Friday that it intends to question a recent report of a statement attributed to Japanese Environment Minister Kazuo Aichi that Indonesian forests are not over-exploited.

"We will send a letter tomorrow to the Japanese Embassy, asking whether the report of Aichi's statement was true or not," said the Network for Forest Conservation in Indonesia (Skephi).

"We doubt the report because we know Aichi is concerned about environment issues and he knows that the East Kalimantan Tropical Forest was destroyed by Japanese logging companies," Skephi said.

Aichi visited Indonesia earlier this week and made a trip to East Kalimantan Tropical Forest.

Japanese Embassy Counsellor Sumiyo Tarui has told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Aichi actually said he did not know the past history of the Indonesian tropical forest.

"But the particular phrase was not printed in the Indonesian press, so maybe this is misunderstood as if there were no tropical forest problem in Indonesia," Tarui said.

Russel H. Betts, chief representative of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Jakarta, told KYODO that it is very difficult for amateurs to judge whether there is excessive forest exploitation or not when they see that a forest is green.

"However, experts on forestry can find that there is over exploitation. In Eastern Kalimantan, many parts of the forest are almost totally damaged and it was mainly caused by Japanese affiliated logging companies a few decades ago," Betts said.

"So, I cannot believe Aichi's statement as reported by the Indonesian press recently," he said.

Skephi quoted a World Bank report that says the Indonesian tropical forest has been disappearing at a rate of between 1 million and 1.5 million hectares a year.

Suharto Meets South Korean Military Chief

BK0405094891 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] President Suharto this morning received a courtesy call from the South Korean general chief of staff, Chong Ho-kun, who was accompanied by Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno.

Speaking to reporters later, the armed forces commander said the South Korean guest's visit is to enhance bilateral cooperation including ties in the political and security fields. To achieve this objective, there should be an exchange of visits by military officers and cadets from both countries with a view to understanding their defense system.

During his current four-day visit, Chong Ho-kun has been conferred the Indonesian Government's highest medal, the Yudha Dharma Utama, in recognition of his services to promote closer ties between Indonesia and South Korea.

Sutrisno: 'No Compromises' on Nations Security

BK0305051491 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] General Try Sutrisno, chairman of the Coordinating Board for Strengthening National Stability [Bakorstanas], has reiterated that the Bakorstanas makes no compromises and will take no risks in maintaining national stability and ensuring the nation's security and survival. In his capacity as Bakorstanas chairman, the armed forces commander made the remarks in a speech before the Bakorstanas' 1991 coordinating meeting at the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia at Cilangkap, Jakarta yesterday. He said national stability as a precondition for the continuity of national development has a complex dimension and a broad scope. According to the Armed Forces commander, departments and agencies are henceforth required to take active roles in maintaining national stability.

Officer Joins UN Committee on Arms Destruction

BK0305155691 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 3 May 91

[Excerpts] UN Secretary General Javier Peres de Cuellar has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Simanjuntak as a member of a UN special committee to monitor and verify the destruction of Iraq's chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons in accordance with a resolution issued by the UN Security Council. Lt. Col. Simanjuntak from the Indonesian Army Engineers Corps is one of 19 experts from the special committee established as a precondition for a permanent cease-fire to the Gulf war.

The 18 other members of the special committee are from European and Asian countries, the Soviet Union, and the United States. [passage omitted] The committee is in charge of inspecting Iraq's system of nonconventional and mass destruction weapons and monitoring their destruction.

Organizations Urged To Ensure Election Success

BK0605045191 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Mass organizations and their members have been urged to contribute substantially to the success of the 1992 general election. Giving a lecture before delegates to a Java-wide indoctrination course for state enterprise workers in Yogyakarta, Hari Sugiman, director general for sociopolitical affairs, said the participation of the mass organizations should not deviate from the infrastructure system established by law. According to the system, a mass organization does not participate in a general election and has no structural relationship with a sociopolitical force. Based on the infrastructure system, a mass organization could ensure the success of the general election by helping maintain political stability through efforts to enhance national unity and cohesion.

Director General Hari Sugiman again reiterated that members of a mass organization could actively implement the programs of a sociopolitical organization they have confided in provided that they do not carry along the attribute or symbol of their mass organization.

Laos

Further Reportage on Chea Sim Visit

Press Release Issued

BK0305114191 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 3 May 91

[Press release on an official friendship visit to Laos by delegation of the State of Cambodia National Assembly, led by Chea Sim, from 29 April-2 May; date of press release not given]

[Text] In response to an invitation from Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], Comrade Chea Sim, Political Bureau member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee, chairman of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia, and chairman of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, led a delegation on an official friendship visit to the LPDR from 29 April to 2 May 1991.

During the visit on this occasion, Comrade Chea Sim and his delegation laid a wreath at the monument of unknown soldiers in Vientiane and visited some economic and cultural establishments of historic significance in Vientiane and Luang Prabang Provinces. Everywhere they visited, Comrade Chea Sim and his delegation were warmly welcomed by the party, people's assembly, administrative and front committees, as well as the multiethnic people in a spirit of fraternal friendship, solidarity, and affection.

Comrade Chea Sim and delegation had the honor of paying courtesy calls on Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers, and Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the republic and chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee. They also held a working meeting with the LFNC Central Committee, held talks with the party, administrative, people's assembly, and front committees of Luang Prabang Province. Comrade Chea Sim also received a courtesy call from a delegation of the Lao-Cambodian Friendship Association. The calls and meetings proceeded in a profound atmosphere of joy, mutual understanding, and fraternal and comradely friendship.

Comrade Chea Sim and delegation held a meeting with Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan and delegation. On that occasion, Comrade Chea Sim informed Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan of certain outstanding points in the political, national defense and public security, and socioeconomic development fields of the State of Cambodia. Comrade Chea Sim particularly noted the implementation of the resolution of the fifth congress of the KPRP and the resolution of the second nationwide congress of cadres. In addition, he firmly reiterated the correct stand of the State of Cambodia on the settlement of the Cambodian problem through political means. Comrade Chea Sim wholeheartedly praised and hailed the initial achievements won by the multiethnic Lao people in implementing the resolution of the Fourth LPRP Congress. He also highly assessed the glorious success of the Fifth LPRP Congress, described the congress as a mark of the continual implementation of the restructuring policy, and noted that it will serve as a new step in the development of the Lao revolution. At the same time, Comrade Chea Sim expressed a conviction that under the correct leadership of the LPRP, the multiethnic Lao people will be able to win new, still greater achievements in their cause of building and promoting the popular democratic system. Comrade Chea Sim also expressed gratitude to the party, state, and fraternal people of Laos for having always rendered sympathy, sincere support and assistance to the Cambodian party, state, and people in the cause of building and defending the State of Cambodia.

Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan expressed thanks to Comrade Chea Sim for his gentle commendation toward the party, state, and people of Laos. He also highly assessed and hailed the great victories won by the Cambodian Armed Forces and people in the struggle to defend and build the State of Cambodia under the KPRP's correct leadership.

On this occasion, Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan informed Comrade Chea Sim of the success of the Fifth LPRP Congress and the process of the establishment and improvement of the first draft constitution of the LPDR. He expressed full support for the good intentions of the State of Cambodia in connection with the adoption of plan and policy to rationally settle the Cambodian problem on the basis of the spirit of national accord and in conformity with the aspirations of the Cambodian people. He particularly hailed the 5-point proposal recently advanced by the State of Cambodia on this issue.

Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan expressed a welcome to the stand of the State of Cambodia which aims to establish normal relations with all countries in the world, in particular with various neighboring countries, such as the Kingdom of Thailand and the PRC—the countries with which it has long maintained friendship relations. He regarded the restoration of the said relations as a very significant step toward the maintenance of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in this region and the world. He once again reiterated the consistent stand of the party, state, and people of Laos to continue to support, in the best manner possible, the struggle to equitably and rationally settle the Cambodian problem through political means in conformity with the reality in Cambodia in the present on the basis of the respect for the Cambodian people's rights to self-determination to prevent the reoccurrence of the 1975-79 adverse incidents in Cambodia.

Comrade Chea Sim and Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan called on the international community to support the five-point proposal of the State of Cambodia on the convening of a meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC], the voluntary observance of cease-fire, the halt to foreign military aid as well as the transportation of weapons and other military equipment through foreign territory to Cambodia, the sending of a UN experts mission to find facts in refugee camps and in areas under the control of other Cambodian factions to be used as a basis for the political settlement of the Cambodian problem at an early date.

The two comrade chairmen welcomed the call of 22 April 1991 of the UN secretary general and the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, which proposed that the various Cambodian factions voluntarily observe the cease-fire beginning 1 May 1991, and regarded it as an initiative which will lead to an achievement of peace in Cambodia to enable the Cambodian people to rebuild and develop their country in a happy manner.

Comrade Chea Sim and Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan had the pleasure of noting that the friendship relations, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the two parties, two states, and two peoples of the two countries—Laos and Cambodia—on the basis of the spirit of restructuring have been nurtured, consolidated, promoted, and strengthened ever more firmly with each passing day. The two comrade chairmen wholeheartedly hailed and highly assessed the great achievements recorded by the fraternal Vietnamese people in implementing the restructuring policy as put forth by the sixth congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam. They once again reiterated that the strengthening and consolidation of the special solidarity and fraternal relations and the broadening of all-round cooperation in accordance with the requirements in the new stage are the objective necessity for the common interests of the three countries as well as for the survival and the development of each country. They considered those a significant contribution to the safeguarding of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in this region and the rest of the world. The two comrade chairmen also reached complete unanimity on the assessment of the regional and world situation which is changing in a complex manner.

The meeting between Comrade Chea Sim and Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan proceeded in an atmosphere of profound friendship, sincerity, and mutual understanding. The two sides have unanimously agreed to increase the cooperation and the exchanges of lessons between the two legislative institutes of the two countries of Laos and Cambodia on the basis of the requirements and practical conditions.

Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan highly appraised the glorious success of Comrade Chea Sim and delegation in the official friendship visit to the LPDR on this occasion, and considered the visit a significant milestone and a new step of development of the strengthening of the time-honored traditional solidarity between the two parties, two states, and two peoples of Laos and Cambodia in accordance with the requirements of the new stage.

Comrade Chea Sim expressed sincere and profound thanks to Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan as well as to the party, state, and fraternal Lao people for the very warm and friendly welcome accorded to him and his delegation during the visit. He also wished the fraternal multiethnic Lao people new, ever greater achievements in implementing the resolution of the fifth LPRP congress. On behalf of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia, Comrade Chea Sim invited Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan and a SPA delegation of the LPDR to pay a friendship visit to the State of Cambodia again in at appropriate time. Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan has accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Received by Vongvichit

BK0105041891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Phoumi Vongvichit, adviser to the party Central Committee and the government, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee, received, in Vientiane on the morning of 30 April, a courtesy call from the Cambodian National Assembly delegation led by Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly and of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] National Council, which is currently paying a official friendship visit to the LPDR at the invitation of the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA]. During the visit, the Cambodian delegation has also worked together with the LFNC Central Committee.

On this occasion, Phoumi Vongvichit welcomed the delegation's official friendship visit to the LPDR, the visit, which he said, has contributed to further consolidating, promoting, and strengthening the friendship relations, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the assemblies and between the KUFNCD National Council and the LFNC Central Committee of the two countries. Phoumi Vongvichit also informed Chea Sim of the work performances of the LFNC Central Committee which has maintained a significant role in rallying the multiethnic people to contribute to defending and building the country, in particular during the present period of restructuring in the economic, cultural, and social fields.

In return, Chea Sim expressed his pleasure over the warm and friendly welcome given to him and his delegation during the visit to Laos. He also pointed to the roles and responsibilities of the KUFNCD National Council in fulfilling the aspirations of the multiethnic Cambodian people by maintaining their rights and interests, rallying the Cambodian people to extensively carry out tasks of building and defending the Cambodian fatherland under the leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP].

Reiterating the stand on the settlement of the Cambodian problem, Chea Sim said: At present, the State of Cambodia is continuing to further seek ways and means to settle the problem. He noted the resolution on the solution to the problem, which has just been unanimously reached by the UN Security Council. Chea Sim continued: The State of Cambodia has agreed to accept Prince Norodom Sihanouk as chairman of the National Assembly and Hun Sen as the only vice chairman of the assembly. But, the Cambodian resistance factions have rejected this. They have called for a change by adding the number of vice chairmen to the assembly. The State of Cambodia has adhered to the stand of equality and justice in the settlement of the problem. Chea Sim has also expressed support for the announcement of the UN secretary general who has proposed the observance of a cease-fire by all Cambodian factions beginning 1 May. He noted the readiness of the State of Cambodia to observe the said cease-fire proposal, the proposal which he said, will contribute to effectively settling the Cambodian problem.

Editorial Hails Chea Sim Visit

BK0105111991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 29 Apr 91

[29 April PASASON editorial: "Hail the Visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic by True Friends—the High-level Delegation of the State of Cambodia"]

[Text] A high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Chea Sim, Political Bureau member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, chairman of the National Council of the State of Cambodia, and chairman of the Kampuchean United Front for Construction and Defense, arrived here today for an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. The delegation also brings the spirit of friendship and affection as well as special ties to our Lao people. The Cambodian delegation's visit will also reinforce the long-standing friendship and cooperation between the Lao and Cambodian peoples.

Laos and Cambodia are neighboring countries and were once regarded as brothers [ban keo heuan dong]. During the serveral decades of colonization by foreign countries, our Lao and Cambodian peoples fought side by side for independence and freedom and tried their utmost to provide each other with both material and moral support in the spirit of poletarian internationalism. The Cambodian people, who are striving to develop and defend their fatherland, have up to now been cooperating with the Lao and Vietnamese peoples in the struggle for durable peace and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

The Cambodia delegation's visit to the LPDR takes place as all Lao people are joyously implementing the resolution of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party's fifth congress. This visit also contributes to the strengthening of special relations and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. The Lao people, elated by the improvement of relations and cooperation between the two countries, welcome the delegation and wish its visit a brilliant success so as to contribute to the fulfilment of mutually common tasks.

Leaves Vientiane, Visits Luang Prabang

BK0205134291 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 30 April, the delegation of the State of Cambodia National Assembly led by Comrade Chea Sim left Vientiane for a visit to Luang Prabang Province.

In Luang Prabang, Chea Sim and his party were welcomed by Vongphet Saikeu-yachongtua, chairman of the Administrative Committee of Luang Prabang Province. Later, the two sides held private talks. On the evening of the same day, the Administrative Committee and (?cadres in the municipal area) of Luang Prabang Province held a well-wishing ceremony and reception in honor of the delegation.

On the morning of 1 May, the delegation of the State of Cambodia National Assembly visited many historical places and ruins in the municipal area of the province.

In the afternoon of the same day after returning from Luang Prabang Province, the delegation received members of the Committee of the Laos-Cambodia Friendship Association, who hailed its visit to the LPDR.

Concludes Visit, Departs

BK0305110391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] A high-level delegation of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia led by Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly and of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, has ended an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic

[LPDR] with a glorious success filled with the Lao-Cambodian special solidarity and friendship. The delegation left for home yesterday afternoon.

A formal ceremony to see the delegation off was held at Wattai Airport. Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly attended the ceremony. Also seeing the Cambodian delegation off at the airport was a large crowd of high-ranking cadres.

At the end of the visit to Laos, the high-level delegation of the Cambodian National Assembly issued a press release on its visit to the LPDR. In the press release, the delegation viewed the visit as satisfactorily successful and noted it as a significant event contributing to consolidating, promoting, and expanding the special solidarity, friendship, and all-round cooperation between the two countries.

Cambodian Youth Delegation Pays Visit

BK2804120391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 26 April, a delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Youth Union led by Men Koun, first secretary of this organization, arrived here for an official friendship visit to our country.

Greeting the delegation upon its arrival at Wattai Airport were Comrade Mrs. Thongvin Phomvihan, first secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union Central Commimttee, and a number of cadres concerned.

Long Kem, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Cambodia to Laos, was also present at the airport.

During the six-day visit, the delegation and its Lao counterpart will exchange views and lessons in youth work to further increase special relations between Laos and Cambodia.

Youth Group Concludes Visit

BK0205145591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] From 26 April to 2 May, the delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee led by its first secretary, Men Koun, paid a visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the invitaiton of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee [LPRYU CC].

During its visit, the delegation paid a courtesy call on Oudom Khatthi-gna, head of the party Central Committee Organizational Board and person in charge of guiding mass organizations, and attended a welcoming meeting organized by the LPRYU CC at the Public Health Ministry. The youth delegations of the two countries also met and exchanged views on the situations of youth work in each country and consulted with each other on the direction of future cooperation plans. The LPRYU CC delegation, led by its first secretary Mrs. Thongvin Phomvihan, and the Cambodian youth delegation, led by Men Koun, subsequently signed a cooperation agreement for the 1991-93 period. The agreement spelled out plans for continuing cooperation in the (?education and training field), strengthening and building [word indistinct], and strengthening and increasing the efficiency of cooperation in various fields between Lao, Cambodian, and Vietnamese youths [words indistinct] progressive (?students) of democracy in this region and the world to fight against the imperialists and reactionaries and for peace, independence, democracy, and social progress.

Cambodian Trade Union Delegation Ends Visit

BK0405120391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, a delegation of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions Central Committee led by Mrs. Men Sam-an, chairwoman of the federation's Central Committee, left Vientiane for home after ending a four-day visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

During the visit, the Cambodian trade union delegation held a consultative meeting with a delegation of the Federation of Lao Trade Unions [FLTU] Central Committee, during which views on the implementation of trade union work in the past as well as in the future were exchanged. At the meeting, the two sides particularly discussed relations and cooperation on tourism, exchanges of experiences, and exchanges of technicians on the basis of mutual benefit.

The Cambodian delegation also called on Oudom Khatthi-gna, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau, head of the Organizing Committee of the LPRP Central Committee, and person in charge of directing mass organizations. It also visited some economic and cultural establishments in Vientiane Municipality and Vientiane Province.

Seeing the delegation off at Wattai Airport was Bounthan Souvannasouk, chairman of the FLTU Central Committee, along with a number of cadres attached to the federation. (Chieng Sakol), adviser to the Cambodian Embassy in Laos, was also on hand to see the delegation off at the airport.

Phoun Receives DPRK Vice President

BK0505061491 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister, received DPRK Vice President Yi Chong-ok at the Reception Hall of the Foreign Affairs Ministry this morning. Phoun Sipaseut highly valued the visit to Laos by Yi Chong-ok and his party for it served to further strengthen the fraternal friendship and cooperation between Laos and Korea.

Phoun Sipaseut said: Support for the reunification of Korea is a consistent political policy of the party and government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. The two countries—Laos and Korea—will increase joint efforts to render support and assistance to each other.

The foreign affairs minister informed the DPRK vice president of the initial achievements in our national development at present. However, Laos continues to encounter numerous difficulties because it remains an underdeveloped country and is only beginning to gradually advance from natural production to goods production and to expand production to remote and inaccessible areas.

Yi Chong-ok expressed profound thanks for the warm and fraternal welcome his delegation was given and for Laos' support to the just struggle of the Korean people for national reunification. Such support constitutes a great encouragement to the Korean people as a whole. At the same time, Yi Chong-ok also highly assessed the successes of the Lao people in building the economic foundations at present. In addition, he also informed Phoun Sipaseut of the initial outcome of his visit to the LPDR and the meeting between the delegations of the two countries to discuss various issues of mutual interest.

The meeting between the two leaders proceeded under an atmosphere of intimacy throughout.

Activities Described

BK0305151191 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] In his speech delivered last night at a reception welcoming the DPRK Government delegation led by Vice President Yi Chong-ok, Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit said: The Lao party, government, and people always support the just struggle of the Korean people for peaceful reunification of the divided Korea. The acting president added: The reasonable proposal advanced by President Kim Il-song has received more and more support from the entire Korean people who want to see their country reunified into a single entity. That proposal has also drawn extensive support from all peace-loving people throughout the world.

Yesterday evening, Yi Chong-ok laid a wreath at the Monument of the Revolutionary Fighters to commemorate those fallen gallant heroes who sacrificed their lives for the country and Lao people.

An official meeting was held this morning at the Presidential Palace between the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] Government delegation led by Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit and the DPRK Government delegation led by Vice President Yi Chong-ok. The meeting between the government delegations of the two countries was conducted under an atmosphere of intimacy.

Speaking on behalf of the Lao side, the acting president said that the traditional close ties between the two countries, Laos and Korea, will enter into a new stage. The official friendship visit to the DPRK by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, leader of the Lao party and government, in 1987 marked an important step in the development of friendship relations between the parties, governments, and peoples of Laos and Korea. The LPDR always adheres to its firm stand of rendering full support to the DPRK's reasonable proposal for the reunification of Korea. We regard this as a strategy of the Lao party and government. In addition, the acting president also informed Yi Chong-ok and his party of the situation in Laos, especially the realization of the resolution and success of the Fifth LPRP Congress regarding the consolidation and building of the political system, the development of the popular democratic system, and the vigorous building of the economic foundations during the period of restructuring for the interests and improvement of the living conditions of the people.

On behalf of the DPRK government delegation, Yi Chong-ok said: the DPRK supports the just struggle of the Lao people, aimed at turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, independence, and peaceful coexistence. The LPDR's support given to the efforts to reunify the two parts of Korea into a single entity constitutes encouragement to the Korean people. Yi Chong-ok added that the DPRK firmly adheres to its reasonable proposal by giving priority to conducting political negotiation with a view to ensuring the creation of peace and conditions for national reunification. Even though the national reunification may run into numerous difficulties, such a development will not be able to undermine the efforts of the Korean people. The DPRK vice president expressed full conviction that the LPDR will continue rendering support to and maintaining its solidarity with the DPRK and that the level of efficiency of the cooperation between the two countries will be gradully elevated.

Leaders Send Greetings on Polish National Day

BK0305135391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] On 2 May, Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR, jointly sent a congratulatory message to Jan Krzysztof Bielecki and Lech Walesa, respectively chairman of the Council of Ministers and president of the Republic of Poland, in Warsaw on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Poland in accordance with the 3 May constitution.

The message said that on behalf of the LPDR Government and in their own names, our leaders send sincere best wishes to the Polish leaders and people. They also expressed conviction that the relations between Laos and Poland will be further developed for the common benefits of our two peoples.

On this occasion, Foreign Affairs Minister Phoun Sipaseut also sent a congratulatory message to Krzysztof Skubiszewski, foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Poland.

Text of Kaysone Phomvihan Greetings

BK0305115791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] On 2 May 1991, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], sent a greetings message to His Excellency Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland, in Warsaw on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Poland, which falls on 3 May.

The message reads:

On behalf of the LPDR Government and in my own name, I would like to extend my sincere best wishes to your excellency and to all members of the government of the Republic of Poland. I firmly believe that the relations between Laos and Poland will be further developed for the common benefits of our two peoples. On this occasion, I wish your excellency good health and success in your noble tasks.

Phoun Sipaseut, Others Attend Polish Reception

BK0505063091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Yesterday evening (Mani Anchongpek), Polish ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, and his wife hosted a reception at their residence on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the 3 May Polish Constitutional National Day.

Attending the reception as honored guests were Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister, and a number of ministers and deputy ministers.

In his address at the reception, Phoun Sipaseut hailed and expressed hope that the fine relations of good friendship between Poland and Laos will be further developed.

Leaders Send Greetings to Afghan Counterparts

BK0105053291 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] On Afghan Revolution Day, 27 April, Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, sent a greetings message to Najibullah, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan. The message reads as follows:

On the occasion of the May Revolution Day of the Republic of Afghanistan, on behalf of the LPRP, the government, and the people of Laos, and in own own names, we are very pleased to convey sincere greetings and best wishes for happiness to your excellencies, and through your excellencies, to the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the government, and all people of Afghanistan. We also wish the Afghan people success in building the country and in implementing the national reconciliation policy to bring about peace to Afghanistan as well as to the South Asia region and the rest of the world. May the existing good relations of friendship between the parties, the governments, and peoples of the two countries—Laos and Afghanistan—be promoted and expanded with every passing day!

On the same occasion, Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, also sent a greetings message to 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Outgoing Austrian Envoy Pays Farewell Call

BK0105052691 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Yesterday morning, Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, received a farewell courtesy call from Dr. Peter Klein, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Austria to Laos at the Presidential Office in Vientiane. Dr. Klein has just completed his three-year term of diplomatic service in Laos with the residency in Bangkok, Thailand.

Trade Delegation Concludes Visit to Thailand

BK0305143991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Lao People's Democratic Republic led by its minister, Phao Bounnaphon, returned home after ending a four-day visit to the Kingdom of Thailand.

During its working visit to the Kingdom of Thailand, the delegation was accorded a warm welcome by the Thai side. At a meeting between the two sides, Phao Bounnaphon and Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin reached agreement in principle on various issues. For example, they agreed on the issue of border transit transport of Lao goods, deciding that the Lao side will be given alternatives to select Thai transport companies by itself on the basis of bilateral benefits, aimed at reducing transport costs in trading transactions between the two countries. The Thai side agreed to impose minimal import taxes on (?certain) Lao goods as listed by the Lao side. At the same time, the two sides also agreed to appropriately improve the regulations and principles of management and inspection to ensure peace and security and to prevent illegal trading along the two countries' border. The two sides agreed to establish cooperation in the tourism business on the basis of mutual benefits and to adjust selling prices of Lao electricity to make things more reasonable and just for both sides. At the same time, the Thai side will cooperate with Laos in the construction of the (Pakheng) hydroelectric dam.

Transportation Memorandum Signed With USSR

BK0505114291 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] On the evening of 2 May, a ceremony was held at the Mekong restaurant in Vientiane to mark the signing of a memorandum between Bouasi Lovansai, deputy minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction, and (Tunapoko), vice minister of maritime fleet of the Soviet Union. The ceremony was held in the presence of Bouathong, minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction.

Stipulated in the memorandum are the transportation of imported and exported mechanization tools and Laotian goods of various for 1991 and the calculation of maritime transportation costs expressed in dollars.

Mekong Interim Committee Holds Third Meeting

BK0205062991 Hanoi VNA in English 0611 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 2—A three-day conference to review the training courses and seminars on the quality of the Mekong River's water was held recently in Vientiane by the Mekong Interim Committee.

At this conference, specialists from Laos, Vietnam and Thailand exchanged experiences and informed each other of the results of water quality analysis in the recent past as part of their preparation for the exploitation, utilization and development of the lower section of the Mekong River.

This was the third conference of this organization held for the first time in Laos. The two previous conferences were held respectively in Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City.

Philippines

Reportage on Japanese Prime Minister's Visit

Kaifu Arrives

OW0405091791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Manila, May 4 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu flew into Manila Saturday on the last leg of a five-nation Southeast Asian tour, hours after a Japanese minesweeping task force entered a Philippine port on its way to the Persian Gulf.

On arrival, Kaifu telephoned the commander of the task force—four minesweepers, a support vessel and a supply ship—while it was on an eight-hour port call in Subic Bay for supplies, Japanese officials said.

Kaifu spoke with Maritime Self-Defense Force [MSDF] Capt. Taosa Ochiai for five minutes, telling the commander of the minesweeper group that leaders of four countries he visited so far on his current trip—Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, and Singapore—have supported the minesweeping mission.

Ochiai told Kaifu his 511-member crew understands the importance of the mission and pledged to do their best, the officials said.

The mission is the MSDF's first overseas non-training operation since the force was set up in 1954.

Some civic groups in the Philippines have protested the minesweeping mission, which they call a sign of Japanese military operations in the region.

Kaifu, however, expects to obtain official backing from Philippine President Corazon Aquino during their meeting Sunday, Japanese officials said. Senior Philippine officials already have endorsed the mission.

Other issues on the agenda for his meeting with Aquino include additional official credits from Japan and debt relief, the officials said.

Japan is the largest aid donor and investor, and the second-largest trading partner for the Philippines.

It offered a 120 billion yen loan package to the Philippines for fiscal 1990, which ended march 31, compared with 115 billion yen for fiscal 1989 and 88.5 billion yen for 1988.

The Philippines had outstanding foreign debts of some 29 billion dollars at the end of 1990. It spends about 40 percent of its budget on debt repayments.

Kaifu is expected to renew Tokyo's position at his meeting with Aquino that the U.S. bases in the Philippines are important for Asia-Pacific peace and security, a Japanese official said.

The Philippines and the United States failed to agree on details of a bilateral pact for renewing the lease on the bases during their sixth round of talks which ended Friday.

A Japanese official accompanying Kaifu said the bases issue is a matter to be negotiated between Manila and Washington.

Kaifu will express hope the issue will be settled soon, he said.

He will return to Japan from the 10-day visit Monday.

Calls For 'Frank Exchange of Views'

BK0405130891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Manila, May 4 (AFP)—Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called Saturday for a "frank exchange of views" with Philippine President Corazon Aquino on the future of the region.

"A new international order is now being called for," Mr. Kaifu said in a dinner toast a few hours after arriving in this country from Singapore on the last leg of a five-nation Southeast Asian tour.

"I believe it is indeed very meaningful to have a frank exchange of views with your excellency on the future of the Asia-Pacific region," he added. Mr. Kaifu is to meet with Mrs. Aquino on Sunday.

The Japanese leader said Tokyo continued to believe that the "stability and prosperity of the Philippines is also important for the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole."

The Japanese embassy here said Mr. Kaifu would probably call for the retention of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

After a year of negotiations, Manila and Washington failed this week to forge a new treaty extending the lease of the U.S. bases after it expires this September. The two countries disagree on the duration of a new treaty and on compensation levels for Manila.

Mr. Kaifu made no direct mention of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base in his speech. But Tokyo is widely known to support the continued presence of U.S. military bases in this country although it is reluctant to link aid to the U.S. bases.

The prime minister arrived here a few hours after Japanese minesweepers docked at Subic Bay to refuel on their way to hunt mines laid by Iraq during the gulf conflict, but Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told reporters the timing of the port call by the fleet was coincidental.

The naval flotilla was also scheduled to make port calls on Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

In her toast at the dinner, Mrs. Aquino thanked Mr. Kaifu for the extensive Japanese aid to this country and said she looked forward "to discussing with you in detail the range of issues in our bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues of concern to both our countries."

Mr. Manglapus said Saturday that part of a compensation package Manila was seeking from Washington might include an "economic reconstruction fund," to which countries in the region could contribute in return for Manila's hosting the U.S. bases.

Mr. Kaifu also visited a church-run refuge here for street children and sexually abused women who had just returned from their jobs in Japan and other countries.

"I'm very impressed with your projects. I want to help you. I will brief the embassy about what can be done," Mr. Kaifu told residents and staff of Caritas, a social action center run by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila.

He and his wife Sachiyo took a 20-minute tour of the compound in one of the poorer sections of the Philippine capital.

Japan has overtaken the United States as the biggest source of official aid to the Philippines and is one of the biggest foreign investors in this country.

Aquino: Talks Strengthen Ties

OW0505103091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Manila, May 5 KYODO—Philippine President Corazon Aquino on Sunday said her talks with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu had strengthened ties between Japan and the Philippines.

"This gave us a chance once again to reiterate our gratitude for the meaningful assistance given the Philippines by the Japanese people and their government," Aquino said in answer to a question submitted by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

"The already existing excellent relations we have with Japan can only be strengthened by Prime Minister Kaifu's visit here," she said.

Aquino and Kaifu led officials who met for more than two hours of bilateral talks on economic and political issues.

During the talks, however, Kaifu turned down Aquino's request for Japan to consider forgiving part of the Philippines's 5 billion dollars in official debt to Japan, Japanese officials said.

Ambassador Romualdo Ong, head of the Department of Foreign Affairs Asia-Pacific Division, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Philippine officials did not consider Kaifu's response to the debt question as a rejection.

"It's not really a rejection, since they said they would take it up with the Paris Club," Ong said.

Despite the lukewarm response from Kaifu, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao also was optimistic about Japanese officials openness to debt relief measures.

Emerging from the bilateral talks, Estanislao told reporters that Japanese officials "responded positively" after "we made it very clear that we are not asking for (the same measure as) Poland."

Creditors, led by the United States, forgave 50 percent of Poland's debt.

Estanislao said during discussions at a lower level, local officials made it clear that what the Philippines was really aiming for longer maturities and lower interest rates on its debts. [sentence as received]

"They seem to be very open about that," Estanislao told reporters.

Estanislao added that Japanese officials also indicated they were going to continue giving official resources for the debt buy back scheme under the Brady plan.

He said this would enable the Philippines to get 50 percent out of its commercial debt through the debt buy back.

"The impact is the same as Poland," Estanislao added.

Kaifu Assures Continued Aid

OW0405141391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 4 May 91

[Excerpts] Manila, May 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told the Philippines on Saturday that Japan will continue to assist its efforts for political and social reforms, as well as economic reconstruction. Kaifu made the statement at a banquet hosted in his honor by Philippine President Corazon Aquino at the Malacanang Presidential Palace.

"I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that this policy of Japan toward your country will remain unchanged," he said.

The policy of continued support is based on the view that the stability and prosperity of the Philippines is important for the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, he added.

Kaifu made the remarks after Aquino said her country "continues to count on Japan as a major economic partner and development ally." Japan is the biggest aid donor and investor, and the second-largest trading partner for the Philippines.

Additional Japanese official credit and debt relief will be high on the agenda in summit talks between Kaifu and Aquino on Sunday morning, Japanese officials said. [passage omitted]

The Philippine groups protesting against the arrival of Kaifu and the minesweepers said the MSDF [Maritime Self-Defense Force] mission set a precedent for future Japanese military operations in the Asia-Pacific Region. But Kaifu is expected to obtain official backing for the mission from Aquino during their meeting Sunday, a Japanese official said. [passage omitted]

Kaifu will return to Japan from the 10-day tour Monday.

Declines Call for Debt Forgiveness

OW0505074691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0728 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Manila, May 5 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu turned down Philippine President Corazon Aquino's request Sunday for Japan to consider forgiving part of her country's swollen official debt.

Aquino expressed hope at a meeting with Kaifu that creditor countries will give the Philippines the most concessionary terms available at their forthcoming conference on rescheduling part of the nation's official debt, including some 5 billion dollars owed to Japan, Japanese officials said.

The so-called Paris Club of Creditors is expected to meet in June.

The Philippines' total debts, including both private and official borrowings, stood at 29 billion dollars at the end of 1990.

Aquino proposed that Japan negotiate with her country for a debt relief program similar to one adopted for Poland, the officials said.

The Polish formula calls for creditors to effectively forgive 50 percent of official debts.

Kaifu told Aquino that Japan would like to discuss the matter within the Paris Club framework, the officials said.

But he added any formula similar to the Polish approach should be handled "cautiously," indicating that debt forgiveness would harm the Philippines' credit standing in the world financial community and make future borrowing difficult, they said.

Japan is the largest aid donor to the Philippines, with the balance of bilateral official development assistance (ODA) standing at some 3 billion dollars at the end of last March.

At the meeting that lasted for more than two hours, Kaifu reiterated Japan's desire to play a greater role in not only economic but political spheres.

In this connection, he emphasized that the continued U.S. presence is indispensable for peace and stability in the Asia- Pacific region, the officials said.

Aquino told Kaifu she shares with other Southeast Asian leaders the appreciation of Tokyo's assurances that Japan will remain a nation of peace and never again become a military power.

The two leaders agreed on the need to strengthen partnership between Japan and the association of Southeast Asian nations (ASEAN), they said.

Kaifu, here on the last leg of a five-nation tour in the region, repeated such assurances during talks with leaders of four ASEAN member countries, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, and Singapore, that he visited earlier. The other ASEAN members are the Philippines and Indonesia.

Aquino expressed support for Japan's "humanitarian" hope to participate peacefully in international efforts to reconstruct the war-torn Middle East area, giving her tacit approval to the dispatch of minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, the officials said.

The four minesweepers, escorted by two vessels, made a stopover at a Philippine port Saturday. Kaifu thanked Aquino for permitting the port call.

Aquino suggested that Japan host an international conference on Middle East peace as part of its greater political role.

Kaifu stressed the need for international efforts to resolve the Arab-Israel conflict, calling attention to the U.S. efforts to organize a peace conference, the officials said.

Aquino said the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum should aim to be a regional policy forum and suggested that China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan be admitted to the group.

Kaifu said Japan hopes to discuss the matter on the basis of a South Korean initiative. South Korea was asked at an APEC meeting on the country's resort island of Cheju held in March to contact the so-called three Chinese economies on the membership issue.

Ahead of the talks with Aquino, Kaifu laid a wreath at the foot of a monument of Jose Rizal, a 19th-century resistance leader against Spanish rule.

Nearly 1,000 Filipinos taking a Sunday stroll in the Rizal Park watched the ceremony in bright sunshine.

Kaifu will return home from the 10-day ASEAN tour Monday.

Further on Debt Pardon

HK0605050691 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 6 May 91 p 7

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu cautioned President Aquino yesterday against seeking a Polish-style condonation of the country's official debt while expressing his support for a rescheduling of Philippine debt with creditor countries.

In response, the President said the Philippines was not seeking a write-off but a rescheduling of its official debt as well as new money to buy back its obligations, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said.

"We made it very clear that we are not asking for Poland terms. And they (Kaifu and his advisers) responded favorably," said the finance chief. "They said we will work together favorably," said the finance chief. "They said we will work together so that when you go to the Paris Club, we will have full consultation with our partners so that you will have maximum concessionality."

The Philippines wants the Paris Club, a loose grouping of creditor nations that include Japan, to extend the maturity of its official debt by up to 30 years below market rates, said Ambassador Romulaldo Ong, the director general of the Asia-Pacific desk of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Kaifu will enplane home this morning after a 10-day tour of the Asean capitals.

In a press statement, Mrs. Aquino said Kaifu's visit strengthened "excellent relations" between the two countries.

"This gave a chance, once again, to reiterate our gratitude for the meaningful assistance given the Philippines by the Japanese people and their government," she said.

Mrs. Aquino and Kaifu met yesterday in Malacanang for one-on-one and bilateral discussions that touched on a broad spectrum of Japan-Philippines relations.

According to Ong, Kaifu urged "extreme caution" in the Philippines' reported bid for debt forgiveness, warning that such would make it difficult for the country to obtain external financing for its economic recovery program.

Pressures on the Aquino government to seek condonation of the country's official debt mounted as a result of the Paris Club early this year to approve a debt rescheduling program for Poland that cancelled 50% of its official debt.

Kaifu reportedly told Mrs. Aquino that the condonation granted to Poland—which Japan had expressed misgivings on—was a "rare exception."

"The prime minister said that the condonation was to aid Poland in the transition from a socialist economy to a free market economy," Ong said. "It is a special measure not to be applied to others."

Japan's support is necessary since it is the Philippine's biggest official creditor, holding nearly 70%, or roughly $1.1 billion, of the country's maturing $1.6 billion to be rescheduled in Paris Club talks probably next month.

Ong said Kaifu suggested the setting up of a small joint working group to formulate the debt relief plan for the Philippines.

Estanislao said the Philippines hopes to obtain official financing from Japan to buy back at 50% discount its commercial debt. "The impact is the same as Poland," he said.

During the discussions, the President asked Kaifu to reduce Japan's tariff and non-tariff barriers to ensure the flow of Philippine goods to his country.

Ong said that the lifting of barriers was needed to correct the trade imbalance that currently stands second only to the U.S. Philippine exports to Japan totalled $1.59 billion in 1989 while imports amounted to $2.043 billion.

'Maximum Concessionality' Sought on Debt

HK0605050291 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 6 May 91 pp 1, 10

[By staff member Arleen Chipongian]

[Text] The country has dropped debt forgiveness as a negotiating strategy for easing its foreign-debt burden following opposition from Japan, the country's biggest creditor, to writing off loans.

Instead, the country would ask for "maximum concessionality" in the form of 30-year repayment period and below-market interest rates when it sits down with its 14 creditor-countries, known as the Paris Club, on June 18.

Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao said the country was "not agreeable" to a debt-forgiveness strategy because this would have a negative effect on the inflows of medium and long-term foreign exchange as well as foreign investments.

Earlier, the Joint Executive-Legislative Debt Council said the country would pursue one of three negotiating formulas, including the so-called "near-Polish" formula wherein the Philippines would ask its creditors to write off or cancel a portion of their loans.

The finance chief said the country would seek Japan's support for the maximum concessionality from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu who leaves today after a three-day official visit.

Japan has remained firm on its stand not to write off debts.

Japan's position reportedly was to ensure new money inflows to the debtors like the Philippines. This would help debtors manage their repayment problems.

Finnace Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo told newsmen that a debt strategy asking for maximum concessionality would "not risk new money inflows."

Under the fourth round of rescheduling negotiations with the Paris Club, the Philippines would ask for a 100% principal and interest rescheduling. This means that the Philippines would not be paying its creditor-governments during this time.

This negotiating strategy would also result in foreign-exchange savings of $1.4 billion over the next two years.

Bernardo said the government expected that during the 30-year repayment period, other debt-relief measures acceptable to both debtors and creditors could be developed.

Acting Central Bank Governor Gabriel C. Singson said the country's total outstanding foreign debt of $28.5 billion would be reduced by $316 million this year, following a US move to cut interest rates.

Major US banks have reduced their yields by 0.5% to 8.5%.

Japan holds 70% of the total bilateral loans that come into the country, or about $1 billion annually.

In addition to the $1-billion loan package pledged by Japan in the second pledging session for the Philippine Assistance Program (PAP), the country would also ask for a second economic recovery loan (ERL) co-financing from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund [DECF] of Japan.

The World Bank, a principal contributor to the ERL, and OECF are expected to raise $300 million for the loan package. In 1986, the World Bank and the Japan Export Import Bank loaned out $300 million to the country to speed up the Philippines' economic recovery.

In a related development, finance officials also said the country expected to finalize the new financial package with its commercial creditors prior to the opening of the rescheduling talks with the Paris Club.

Estanislao was confident that the country would get $250 million in new loans from creditor banks through the complementary financing scheme being worked out with the Asian Development Bank.

Kaifu Backs U.S. Forces

HK0505080691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Manila, May 5 (AFP)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu made a strong pitch Sunday for retention of U.S. forces in the region and told Philippine President Corazon Aquino that Tokyo did not favor debt pardons, officials said.

Philippine and Japanese officials said the two leaders held extensive talks on security two days after Manila and Washington failed to forge a new leasing arrangement for Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the two largest U.S. military facilities abroad.

Mr. Kaifu "made a statement strongly in favor of U.S. security presence in the Asian-Pacific region," Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Kaifu did not mention the negotiations, which Tokyo considers a matter for the U.S. and Philippine governments to resolve, but "talked of the essential importance of Japan-U.S. security relations for peace and security," he added.

The official said Mr. Kaifu "questioned the wisdom" of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal for a five-country Asian-Pacific security forum, saying "the situation in Asia is different from that of Europe."

He referred to the unresolved security questions in the Korean peninsula, Cambodia, and Tokyo's own territorial dispute with Moscow, which he said should be resolved "one by one" instead of through a meeting among the superpowers and Japan, China and India, the official added.

Tokyo rejected the proposal when Mr. Gorbachev visited Japan last month.

"What is of utmost importance is achieving economic development and economic prosperity," he added.

Mr. Kaifu, on the last leg of a five-nation tour of Southeast Asia—which Japan occupied in World War II—"expressed the contrition and sorrow felt by the Japanese people over the suffering" the country's actions caused during the war, Philippine Foreign Department official Romualdo Ong said.

In the course of the trip, the Japanese leader noted that "there has been, almost in unison, an expectation for a more active Japanese role not only in terms of the economy but also in political terms," Mr. Numata said.

He reiterated Tokyo's position that in taking a more active role in world affairs, it wanted to be in "close touch" with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and that "never again" would it aspire to military dominance.

Touching on bilateral issues, Mr. Kaifu assured Mrs. Aquino of Japan's continued commitment to "provide assistance to Philippine efforts to economic recovery," Mr. Numata said.

The prime minister also urged Mrs. Aquino to continue efforts to implement economic reforms, even if they represent "a rather painful process".

Mr. Kaifu also reiterated the importance of improving the "investment climate" in the country, Mr. Ong said.

Mr. Numata cited a prohibition on land ownership by foreign companies. Japanese businessmen here have also denounced a nine percent levy on all imports, imposed by Mrs. Aquino in December to help curb the growing public sector deficit.

Asked whether Japanese business would still invest in the Philippines if U.S. forces pulled out, Mr. Numata said Japan regarded the country as being "full of investment opportunities. We also regard American military presence in the region as essential for peace and stability in the region."

Japanese investments in the Philippines stood at 7.5 billion pesos (267.86 million dollars) in 1990, 15 times higher than in 1985, Mr. Numata said.

Mr. Ong said Mrs. Aquino sought "extended Japanese support" to Philippine requests for a rescheduling of its official debt during the next meeting of the Paris Club of lender nations, and for some kind of "debt relief" to enable Manila to develop its economy.

Mr. Kaifu replied that the issue should be taken up within the Paris Club framework and Japan would "consider" Manila's request for the setting up of a working group to discuss how to ease its foreign obligations.

Tokyo considers the write-off of 50 percent of Poland's foreign debt as an "extremely rare exception" and that "extreme caution" was necessary in order not to make it more difficult for other countries to secure more capital, the Japanese spokesman said.

Kaifu Concludes Visit

OW0605034091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 6 May 91

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Manila, May 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu wound up a swing through five Southeast Asian nations Monday, confident of a greater political role for Japan but leaving concerns among some neighbors that Tokyo might try to use military power to promote its economic and security interests.

"It is high time Japan overcome its guilt (over wartime atrocities) by actively playing a constructive role in East Asia in an era when the region is moving toward peace and economic cooperation," the Thai newspaper NATIP [name as received] said in an editorial.

"Sooner or later Japan will also have to accept a major security role in East Asia where its largest economic interests—and in fact its very survival—are at stake," the paper said.

One area where Japan could play such a new role, the daily said, is the 12-year-old Cambodian civil war, which "provided Tokyo with its first opportunity to try out its new 'active diplomacy' in regional affairs."

Kaifu visited five of the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines. He visited the sixth member, Indonesia, a year ago.

The leaders of all five countries showed they understood Japan's intention to play more of a political role, said Japanese officials accompanying Kaifu.

They also endorsed the deployment of minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, the first nontraining overseas military mission since Japan set up the Self-Defense Forces in 1954, as part of Tokyo's noneconomic contribution to world peace and stability.

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, however, cautioned that Japan has yet to win confidence from its asian partners because of lingering memories of Japan's World War II actions.

Some Asian nations "are apprehensive over how Japan will wield its eocnomic power," Goh said Thursday at a dinner he gave for Kaifu.

"Japan needs to build trust with its neighbors and the ASEAN countries to smooth its path to discharge its global responsibility as a major economic power," he said.

Despite Manila's official support for the minesweeping mission, a different impression was conveyed in a confidential foreign department report addressed to Philippine President Corazon Aquino, and made available to KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

It said Japanese requests for port calls in the Philippines and four other countries along the way to the Gulf appear "aimed more at gathering visible indications of regional support for the Japanese plan and acceptance of a Japanese military presence in the regional seas."

The report said it is "not surprising" that the Japanese Government increasingly feels the need to emerge from the "shell" imposed on it by the war-renouncing Constitution and "to contemplate effective measures for Japan's own national defense and the protection of its extensive economic interests."

A Philippine civic group charged that the minesweeping mission "will establish a precedent for future Japanese military operations in the Asia-Pacific region."

Trying to allay fears of a resurgence of militarism, Kaifu expressed Japan's "sincere contrition" in a policy speech in Singapore Friday, using the most straightforward words ever uttered by a Prime Minister, and pledged Japan would never again be a military power.

Former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew called Kaifu's contrition "necessary and useful" step if Japan is to take on a higher political profile in the region.

Many Asian countries, however, still pin higher hopes on Japan's role as one of their largest investors, aid donors and trading partners than they do on its role as a political leader.

ASEAN "would prefer a Japan that is willing to underwrite peace and development by using its financial and economic influence to facilitate regional economic development," Thailand's NATION newspaper editorialized.

"The security role for Japan can best be designed in close consultations with regional powers, especially the ASEAN countries and China, instead of accepting whatever role the U.S. wants Japan to play," the newspaper said.

This is because the U.S. "will naturally think about its own interests first and its security design may not be always acceptable to all countries in East Asia," it said.

Newspapers Welcome Visit

OW0405111291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1030 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Manila, May 4 KYODO—Major Philippine newspapers Saturday joined the government in welcoming Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on his last stop of a 10-day tour of five Southeast Asian capitals.

"We join the Filipino people in welcoming Prime Minister Kaifu and party to Manila," said the Manila daily BULLETIN, the paper with the largest circulation in the country, in an editorial.

The paper called it significant that both Kaifu and a group of Japanese minesweepers arrived in the Philippines on the same day.

The minesweepers, headed for the Persian Gulf, made an eight-hour stop at the U.S. Subic Naval Base north of Manila.

"This coincidence underscores what is new in Japan's global role: an increased commitment to share the burden of political leadership," the BULLETIN said.

The conservative Philippines NEWSDAY, meanwhile, urged Kaifu to reassure the Phlippines that its experiences during the Japanese occupation of the country in the 1940's will not be repeated even as it saluted Kaifu's apology in a Singapore address Friday to the Southeast Asian nations for Japan's wartime past.

"Widespread unease with Japan's yet inscrutable plans and apparently growing assertiveness will hopefully become more discernible from Mr. Kaifu's meetings with President Aquino and other Philippine officials," it said.

The Philippine DAILY STAR said: "Japan, an enemy in the last war, is now proving to be one of the Philippines' staunchest friends in time of peace."

It said Kaifu's trip "is expected to enforce this status of Japan in the country." The DAILY STAR printed an editorial cartoon featuring a widely smiling Kaifu with his arms outstretched forming the sign of the yen, Japan's currency.

Japan is the biggest source of official development aid and commercial credit to Manila.

Manglapus Accuses Bush of Sowing Confusion

HK0605121291 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus accused U.S. President George Bush of sowing confusion. This was in reaction to the statement of Bush that the United States has no plans to give the Philippines a blank check in exchange for the continued presence of their military bases in our country.

Many sectors consider the statement of Bush as insulting. According to Manglapus, the remaining issue in the negotiations between the Philippines and the United States is no longer compensation but duration. He insisted that the United States has already agreed to the compensation required by the Philippines, which amounts to $825 million per year. But the United States, he said, through its U.S. panel would like the treaty to last for 10 years. The Philippines wants only seven years.

Secretary Raul Manglapus, head of the Republic of the Philippines [RP] negotiating panel, nonetheless insisted that the RP-U.S. bases cooperation talks did not collapse. The secretary said that, although both panels have not agreed on the issues of compensation and duration of the U.S. military bases' stay in the Philippines, he is still hopeful that a new agreement can be arrived at. Manglapus also added that the two countries are closely studying the various aspects that need to be adjusted in their repective positions. The secretary did not mention when the next RP-U.S. bases cooperation talks will resume.

In a related development, Secretary Manglapus clarified that the reported statement of Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on the U.S. military bases was just his personal view.

It was reported that Kaifu expressed his endorsement of the continued presence of the American military bases in the Philippines due to their importance to the security of Asia.

According to Manglapus, this was just the personal opinion of Kaifu and it does not reflect the official position of the Japanese Government.

Article Says U.S. Grants Have Strings Attached

Part 1

HK0305081791 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 2 May 91 pp 1, 8

[Article by Marie Avenir, Lucia Palpal-latoc, and Ma. Lourdes M. Reyes of The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism; first in a series]

[Text] In May 1979, the $7.8 million Bicol River Basin Development Program was given a USAID grant and a loan to cover 42 percent of the total project cost. The Philippine government spent for 58 percent. [as published]

The project was designed primarily to train 400 barangay health aides in Camarines Sur and Albay to help improve health and nutrition among residents, maintain population growth at a desirable level, and achieve local government's self-reliance in health services.

This simple project virtually became a market for U.S. goods through stipulations that vehicles be bought from the U.S. and drugs and health kits procured for the program be subject to approval of USAID.

U.S. grants for farm goods are required to be delivered to the recipient country only through U.S. ships which charge higher than the international shipping rate, recalls economist Solita Monsod of her experience as head of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

This means that the actual value of the grant is really lower since part of it goes to the high cargo rate of U.S. vessels.

USAID Director Malcolm Butter says this applies only to food aid. "It's very clear to me that if we were able to use less expensive ships we could make the money go further, but I don't have that flexibility. It's in the law," he says.

Tied to purchases

He also confirms that U.S. assistance as a general rule is tied to purchases of U.S. goods whenever possible. The Institute for Food and Development Policy quotes a 1980 USAID paper to show up to what extent the U.S. requires recipient countries to import U.S. grants and loans: "About three out of four dollars in the AID budget purchase products and consultative services in the U.S."

Butler maintains there is nothing wrong with that "when we gave a grant of about $2 million worth of U.S. computers for the national census in the country, one of the officials of the agency which received the grant cited the computers as the reason for the speedy and efficient census. Those computers were manufactured by U.S. firms. What's wrong with that? I think that U.S. taxpayers would say that if we've going to give $2 million worth of computers they would prefer those made in the U.S."

Critics, however, say that this turns grants into a business deal between donor and recipient countries and thereby makes grants an instrument for advancing the trade interest of the donor country.

"The objective of this grant business is really to promote their industry and trade. Bilateral agencies including the U.S. government denied this because it is an opportunity to enhance their trade and markets for their industry," says Briones.

"That is a given: it is a business transaction, not an act of charity," she says.

Critics also point out that American consultants are paid much higher than Filipino counterparts. Documents on USAID projects show that total budget allocated to American consultants for the Technology Transfer for Energy Management (TTEM) project jointly funded by the USAID, the Philippine government and the private sector was $1.794 million as against $1.081 million for Filipino consultants and personnel, even though more Filipinos had been hired.

Furthermore, 89.7 percent of the $2-million USAID to pay the American consultants and personnel. [sentence as published] Fees for the Filipino consultants were obtained from counterpart funds from the Philippine government, the Philippine private sector, expected earnings and parts of USAID grants and loans.

The same situations have applied to the 1980 Reforestation Energy Project partly funded by USAID, where the total grant of $1 million was used solely to pay for the wages of U.S. consultants. Operating expenses of the U.S. consultants were paid by the National Electrification Administration, which was tasked to implement the project.

Butler says the discrepancy between salaries of U.S. and Filipino consultant's is based on international standards. "If we hire an American consultant in Thailand or in the Philippines, we have to pay international wages. We have no choice, we have to pay the same rate that they're making in the U.S.," he says.

While Butler maintains that "it's in our interest to hire Filipinos whenever possible," Monsod points out that USAID in the past has hired U.S. consultants even in simple projects as building two-wing schoolhouses.

USAID appears to be more aware now of a growing sentiment among Filipinos against the hiring of U.S. consultants for project grants. The Philippine government "is broadly resistant to significant increases in expatriate technical assistance," a 1988 USAID paper says.

But apparently the reasons for resistance are much larger than that.

Part 2

HK0305082591 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 May 91 pp 1, 10

[Article by Marie Avenir, Lucia Palpal-Latoc, and Ma. Lourdes M. Reyes of The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism; second in a series]

[Text] If Philippine-American relations were to be described in monetary terms, one description would point to the mammoth amount of grants and other forms of economic aid the U.S. government has brought to the Philippines since the end of U.S. colonial rule in 1946.

Official estimates by the U.S. show that the American government has provided the Philippines about 43.3 billion in economic assistance, including more than half a billion dollars in food aid.

In the early years of President Aquino's administration, the United States Agency for International Development provided about $600 million in grant assistance to directly support the national budget, two USAID officials said.

"No donor has ever provided so much grant assistance here, and none has ever provided so much direct budget support," said Frederick Shiek, former director of USAID, and Malcolm Butler, incumbent USAID director, in a joint statement about USAID's achievement in the country.

American assistance to the Philippines remains unsurpassed by any other donor country. But American grants also require the Philippine government to comply with many conditions before a grant is given.

U.S. exports

These conditions further ensure that the grants become opportunities for U.S. exports. They are also used to influence the Philippine government's development policy.

U.S. and Philippine officials also acknowledge that grants are related to the presence of U.S. military bases here.

"If you just let the donor (U.S. government) be, the conditionalities are this long; privatization, deregulation of trade barriers, birth control policies, intellectual copyright for software especially to be implemented here, all the way up to the enactment of a bankruptcy law," a former high-ranking official of the Coordinating Council for the Philippine Assistance Program says.

"it is an open secret that countries which give grants and other forms of assistance do not necessarily do so out of altruism," says Prof. Leonor Briones, chairman of the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC). "It is primarily to promote their interests, either economic or political."

Although other donor countries impose more or less the same conditions on the Philippines, Briones singled out the USAID, the official conduit of U.S. grants to the Philippines, as the agency with the longest list of conditions and the most exacting in its requirements on grant projects.

Official documents obtained show that the U.S. government imposes grant conditions aimed at shaping Philippine government policies.

Before any U.S.-funded project or program is approved, the project is screened by U.S. supervisors and subjected to a series of questions aimed at protecting U.S. interests.

Questions

These questions include how a project will encourage U.S. private trade and investment abroad and encourage private U.S. participation in foreign assistance programs. They also stipulate that the recipient country must prevent exports from competing with U.S. industries.

Grants and assistance also stipulate that all purchases be made from the U.S. and that U.S. engineering and professional services will be used.

One of the requirements is that at least half of gross tonnage of commodities finances should be transported by U.S. flag commercial vessels "at fair and reasonable rates."

At the same time that the U.S. screens the projects it funds to protect its own intersts, it also inquires if funding complies with some altruistic motives.

Projects are expected to increase labor intensive production and spread investment from cities to rural areas, to develop cooperatives and ensure the participation of women, for example.

But based on actual projects funded by U.S. grants, these altruistic criteria appear to be mere lip service.

Eight NPA Leaders Captured in Central Luzon

HK0305134191 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 2 May 91 p 2

[Report by Fer Taboy, Luisa Novella, and Dan Ambrocio]

[Text] The authorities captured eight suspected top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] in Central Luzon in separate operations in the provinces of Rizal and Bulacan over the past few days.

Meanwhile, Senator Ernesto Maceda yesterday challenged the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief, Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia, to review the data Maceda used in announcing that the NPA is regaining strength over the military, if Abadia doubts the information.

According to Maceda, because of Abadia's doubts, he had reservations on Abadia's confirmation as AFP chief before the Commission on Appointment (CA).

"If he doubts my data, then maybe I should rethink my support for him before the CA," he said.

The senator recently revealed that offensives by the communist guerillas in different parts of the island are growing stronger and the rebels are gaining the initiative in guerilla warfare.

Maceda said that if the AFP chief wants to counter the insurgency, "he should fulfill his promise to send one batallion of scout rangers to the mountains."

In the report of Superintendent MacArthur Flores, chief of the Rizal-Philippine National Police (PNP), to Director General Cesar Nazareno, one of the captured NPA leaders was identified as Felisa Timog, alias Comrade Liza, Comrade Linda, and Comrade Pina. Nazareno said that there is an 800,000 pesos reward for Timog's capture. Timog was captured by members of the 221st PNP Company in a raid on the suspect's house at Barangay Malibago, Talim Island, Cardona, Rizal, at about 0530.

According to Flores, Timog is currently the finance officer of the CPP-NPA Central Luzon Regional Party Committee and editor in chief of the underground regional publication called REVOLUTION. He added that she used to be the provincial secretary of the CPP-NPA Bataan and is the widow of Osmundo Ocampo, the second in the Central Luzon order of battle who died in a clash September 1990 in Bataan.

The suspect is currently detained at Regional Command III in Camp Olivas, Pampanga, he said.

The other seven who were captured in Bulacan are suspected to be leaders of the provincial CPP-NPA, said senior Inspector Sahiron Salim, chief of the 171st PNP Company. According to Salim, the suspects were identified as: Lorenzo Tiongson, alias Comrade Vencio, 44, of Barangay Iba Este, Calumpit, Bulacan; Benedicto Santos, 30, of Barangay San Juan, Malolos; Juan Ganelo, 49, of Barangay Longos, Malolos; Romualdo Constantino, 30, of Barangay San Pablo, Malolos; Narciso Castro, 38, of Barangay Manatal, Pandi; and Manolo Reyes, 23, of Marulas, Valenzuela.

Salim said that Tiongson is the suspected head of the propaganda and organizing committee of the Maria Llorente Brigade, based in Bocaue. Constantino, on the other hand, is an NPA platoon leader operating in various coastal towns of Bulacan, and the husband of amazon Comrade May who was captured in Malolos a few hours after giving birth to their first child.

The others who were captured are believed to be members of the NPA central district committee of Bulacan.

Meanwhile, one soldier and three Citizen's Armed Force Geographical Units (CAFGU) members were killed when attacked by the NPA in Cagayan this Monday. The fatality was identified as Corporal Pepito Velasco of the Philippine Army. According to reports, Velasco's group was attacked by about 50 guerillas in Barangay Abariongan Ruar, Sto. Nino, at about 1100.

Thailand

Military on Alert Amid Coup Rumors

BK0605010191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 May 91 p A1

[Text] Military units throughout the country remained on alert yesterday following rumours of a possible attempt by disgruntled officers loyal to the previous administration to create unrest, military sources said.

Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun confirmed yesterday that the armed forces had been put on a state of alert.

But he said the alert order, signed by Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, would be lifted today.

"The supreme commander has just ordered an end to the state of alert tomorrow," Suchinda told reporters at the Government House after a garden party to honour the Coronation Day.

But when asked about rumours of a coup, the army chief shot back: "Who would want to stage a coup?"

The sources said the alert order was issued on Friday by Gen Sunthon, leader of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], and sent to all the three armed forces after rumours that some military units were plotting a coup.

Sunthon's order did not mention about the rumours and the sources did not identify the units which were said to be planning a revolt.

The sources, however, said they were loyal to former deputy premier Gen Thienchai Sirisamphan, who had served as deputy army chief, former deputy defence minister Gen Athit Kamlangek, who was once supreme commander and army chief, and cashiered former Young Turk officer Manun Rupkachon, who is reportedly in exile in Germany.

All of them were closely associated with the previous administration, ousted by the military in the Feb 23 coup.

According to the Thai press, the information was based on intelligence gathered by the NPKC.

The daily BAN MUANG quoted the intelligence information as saying that the disloyal troops included about 200-300 soldiers from Lopburi- and Saraburi-based armoured cavalry units who were planning to seize control of key installations in Bangkok.

It went on to claim that politicians collaborating with the rebel soldiers would then instigate a mass demonstration by students and workers to demand democracy.

"Once (a coup) is completed, they would revive the 1978 Constitution and organize an election within 90 days," the paper reported.

Rumours of a coup was blamed for depressing the stock market index on Friday, which dropped by 10.93 to close at 868 points

The sources said the military feared that the lifting of martial law on May 2 might provide an opportunity for disgruntled politicians to create unrest.

They noted that the rumour emerged a day before the committee headed by Gen Sithi Chirarochana was to announce the first list of politicians suspected of amassing wealth illegally.

Other senior military officials last night also tried to play down the coup rumours and the state of alert.

"There is no problem," said Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Kaset Rotchananin last night.

Assets Committee Singles Out Leading Politicians

BK0505034491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 May 91 pp A1, A2

[By Sumit Hanpanyaphichit and Adisak Limprungphathanakit]

[Text] The powerful committee investigating the assets of 25 politicians yesterday stated that Pol [Police] Capt Chaloem Yubamrung, Pramuan Saphawasu, Pol Gen Praman Adireksan and Montri Phongphanit were among those possessing "unusual wealth" and ordered them to testify to the panel within 15 days and prove it had been legally obtained.

Reading a prepared statement after more than four hours of closed-door discussions with the other committee members, committee chairman Gen Sitthi Chirarot said that those who failed to comply with the order may face imprisonment or fines to be ordered by the court at the request of his committee.

The announcement fueled rumours that political lobbying had resulted in Chat Thai Secretary-General Banhan Sinlapa-acha being dropped from the first list of the accused unusually rich politicians. One rumour had it that Banhan had lobbied with a top army general for the exclusion of his name from the announcement.

Sensing the suspicions, Sitthi dismissed the rumours, saying that Banhan was still among those who may be formally identified as being unusually wealthy in the next announcement.

"The committee will make a second announcement, but I cannot say at this point how many will be on the second list and who they might be. Banhan is among those whose assets are still being checked and who may be named in the next announcement," said the former interior minister, reputed for his integrity.

Sitthi said the four politicians are required to report to a committee member or the secretary of the committee at its office at Building 608 in the compound of Sanam Suapa, the seat of the Supreme Command headquarters.

The four were cabinet members when Gen Chatchai Chunhawan was prime minister before he was ousted in the Feb 23 coup.

Pol Capt Chaloem, the leader of the Muanchon Party who is still in hiding, served under Chatchai as PM's [Prime Minister's] Office minister and then deputy education minister. Montri, the secretary-general of the Social Action Party, was communications minister from the start of Chatchai's rule until last December.

Pramuan, a Chat Thai deputy leader, and Pol Gen Praman, No. 2 in Chat Thai as party chairman, were industry minister and interior minister when the military seized power from the Chat Thai-led Cabinet.

Sitthi refused to divulge details about the wealth of the four politicians, saying that the committee would inform them of its findings when they report to the panel.

"Each possesses wealth somewhere between Bt100 [baht] million and and Bt1 billion," he told reporters.

He said he expects the suspects to report to the committee in person because they are better informed about their own assets than their wives or relatives would be.

Regarding fugitive Chaloem, Sitthi said: "I am fair to everybody. Don't hurl unfair accusations against me."

He said his committee did not have the authority to rule on whether the suspects would be barred from the next general election or not.

Committee members, clarifying Sitthi's statement, told THE NATION that the suspects' assets mentioned by Sitthi include both confirmed assets and those which are still being checked.

"I would say that the confirmed assets of each is no less than Bt50 million and that amount is large enough to be considered unusual wealth. The combined confirmed assets, including cash, real estate and automobiles, amount to about Bt200 million," said one committee member who asked not to be identified.

The committee has also learned of their other assets but is waiting for either confirmation or official estimates of their value, the committee member said.

Paradoxically, Banhan has been found to possess more assets than any of the four named yesterday.

Whether Banhan should have been mentioned in yesterday's announcement was the highlight of discussions by the panel members at the office of the Counter Corruption Commission [CCC] yesterday, the committee member told THE NATION.

"We in the committee agreed unanimously on the four cases, but were locked in extensive debate on Banhan's case," he said.

Some committee members aired their concern that the panel would be accused of having dropped his name from the list under the pressure of an influential figure or as a result of Banhan's alleged lobbying.

But when the committee members went through details mentioned in the report by a subcommittee, they agreed that the committee had not acquired definite evidence to point to his "unusual wealth."

"When he was appointed a Cabinet member, he notified the CCC that his assets amounted to more than Bt500 million, while the financial statements filed by the other former Cabinet members under investigation show that they each had less than Bt100 million," the source said. Another committee source said Banhan stated in the financial report that he possessed up to more than Bt600 million in assets.

Moreover, Banhan can claim that he had major sources of revenue from his own businesses, including Saha Sichai Chemical Co Ltd, which supplies chlorine and other chemicals, while the other four suspects do not have clearly established businesses of their own, the source added.

Information about Banhan's stakes in a variety of firms is also contradictory and confusing at this stage, the source said.

He added that the subcommittee, chaired by Mongkhon Pao-in, was assigned to clear up the contradictions and continue digging into Banhan's assets.

Police Director Claims Department Uncontrollable

BK0405064791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 May 91 pp A1, A3

[By Sirot Sukphinyo]

[Text] Police [Pol] Director General Sawat Amonwiwat implied yesterday that he has lost control of the Police Department which he charged was rife with political interference that has bred widespread insubordination and limited his power in the reshuffling of police officers.

His outburst coincided with a resurgence of violent crime and brutality allegedly committed by policemen, and mounting criticism by the military of the police force.

Sawat, whose reported conflicts with the military have stirred doubts about his future, complained about what he described as his limited power in the reshuffling of police officers.

He said policemen who had won promotions with the help of political influence seldom listened to their superiors, even himself.

"I'm the police chief, but I can't make appointments. So why should (my subordinates) listen to me? Isn't it better to listen to the ones who have the power to appoint them?" he said.

Sawat did not clearly state whether the problem of political interference was getting more serious after the previous government was overthrown by the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC].

Former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan appointed Sawat police chief shortly before the NPKC staged a bloodless coup on Feb 23. Sawat's appointment was thought to be politically motivated, with some observers linking it to the alleged assassination plot of 1982.

Sawat's predecessor, Pol Gen Sawaeng Thirasawat, was apparently giving tacit support for a revived investigation into the controversial case when he was removed by Chatchai.

The NPKC, in ousting Chatchai, accused him of trying to distort or cover up the case in which his close aide, Manun Rupkhachon, is implicated.

The military also accused the Chatchai government of trying to assert influence over all agencies, including the Police Department.

But after it seized power, the NPKC has made several major police reshuffles that have seemed to strengthen the military council's hand and tame pro-Chatchai officers.

Sawat, although being appointed a deputy NPKC chairman after the coup, has found himself in an uneasy situation, partly because of the fact that he was handpicked by Chatchai to become police chief.

A recent military radio broadcast severely criticized the Police Department for its failure to get rid of "godfathers" in the country. It said without elaboration that if the department couldn't solve the problem of underworld crimes bosses, "drastic action" should be taken.

Sawat recently also angered Interior Minister Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, the NPKC secretary-general, by confirming news reports that the military junta was studying the possibility of putting the Police Department under the ambit of the Defence Ministry.

Itsaraphong and other NPKC leaders denied planning to transfer the Police Department from the Interior Ministry to the Defence Ministry, and the interior minister suggested Sawat's mouth be "taped shut."

Sawat said yesterday he had instructed police researchers to find ways to increase police discipline and effectiveness.

"The whole problem is caused partly by the Police Department's lack of sovereignty when it comes to appointments and promotions. Political officials have interfered with the process so much that we can't select (qualified) people (by ourselves)," Sawat said.

The political interference, Sawat complained, has reached a point where policemen have very little respect for their superiors "who cannot hurt or help them."

Sawat added that a planned legal amendment that would increase provincial governors' control over police might also complicate the chain of command.

Asa, U.S. Senator Discuss Drug Suppression Efforts

BK0405091791 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Thailand and the United States will be cooperating closely in narcotics suppression. The point was brought up during the discussion held between Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and Mr. John Kerry, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on narcotics suppression, who called on him at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 May. Deputy Director General of the Information Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lieutenant Rawi Hongpraphat told reporters that during the talks, the two sides reaffirmed their common stand against illicit drug production and trafficking and their support for peace in the region with Cambodia as the question in point.

Also on Thursday, 2 May, Datuk [name indistinct], deputy minister of foreign affairs of Brunei Darussalam, called on Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun. Both sides exchanged ideas on bilateral relations and cooperation. There [words indistinct] to improve trade ties between Thailand and Brunei Darussalam, the large potential of Thai goods in Brunei market.

Further Reportage on Article 301 Sanctions

U.S. Pressure on Trade Action

BK0305104191 Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 22-28 Apr 91 p 29, 30, 31

[Commentary: "The U.S. Application of Article 301 Against Thailand—A Struggle or an Attempt To Pressure the National Peacekeeping Assembly"]

[Text] An interesting point concerning the U.S. reaction against Thailand after the National Peacekeeping Council's [NPKC] 23 February power takeover was its expression of displeasure and its attempt to demonstrate its opposition by announcing the suspension of financial assistance to Thailand. But the U.S. reaction did not panic the NPKC or the Anan Panyarachun government, as evidenced by their coming out to assure that the suspension would have no impact because the U.S. assistance to date was minimal due to repeated cuts for the reason that Thailand was advancing toward a newly industrialized country status and becoming an economic rival.

There is a belief that the quick U.S. reaction to the NPKC takeover was the result of the United States "losing face" by the fact that the Thai military leaders did not "inform" it in advance as was the "customary practice" in the past, thus illustrating a decline in the U.S. political role and influence in Thailand. The United States deemed that it was necessary to make its position known to the new Thai administration. However, after the U.S. ambassador called on the Thai prime minister, who was a former Thai ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, the aggressiveness and coldness between the two countries relaxed as U.S. formal recognition of the new Thai Government followed. But there was no progress in the suspended U.S. financial assistance.

On 15 April, the U.S. ambassador called on Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on, who disclosed that he was informed that a full U.S. delegation would attend the World Bank governors conference in Thailand. (There had been reports that several organizations involved in the conference tried to urge World Bank headquarters to boycott the conference to show opposition to the junta's takeover. The issue eventually faded away.) Amaret did not report anything else being discussed at the meeting, only saying that he would have to consult the prime minister first.

According to a Commerce Ministry source, the main purpose of the U.S. ambassador's call was to formally advise that the U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] was considering designating Thailand a priority foreign country on 26 April. Per regulations, 30 days after the designation, the USTR would hold negotiations with Thailand in order to decide in six months whether or not to undertake retaliatory measures, which would cause Thailand to suffer trade and investment setbacks. Thailand's image in the eyes of the world will also undoubtedly suffer.

The main reason which the United States claimed caused it to lose patience and use the stringent measure against Thailand was that Thailand never showed an inclination to protect U.S. medicine patents or copyrights.

In any event, the next day Amaret issued an aggressive statement, admitting that the U.S. envoy came to report on the issue but adding that it did not mean that Thailand would face immediate retaliations on 26 April and, therefore, there was no impact on Thai trade at this time.

Amaret said being designated priority foreign country would place Thailand in the same category as China and India, which have never protected U.S. intellectual property. It would be extremely unfair for the United States to treat Thailand the same way as those two countries because Thailand has attempted to protect intellectual property and even planned to amend the 1979 medical patent act to protect more medical patents which originated in the United States. He said the bill would be submitted to the National Legislative Assembly, but added that to pass it into law this year in exchange for Thailand not being placed on the priority first country list would be interference with the legislature. To do that Thailand would be succumbing to U.S. pressure, thus jeopardizing its national independence. Thailand would also find it difficult to explain its action.

Amaret said Thailand has been prosecuting violators of patents following complaints by the United States. Six violators were arrested as of 15 April, most of whom were minor violators. He wondered why there were no U.S. complaints against major violators. If Article 301 should result in retaliations against Thailand, Thai-U.S. trade or the overall Thai trade picture will not worsen from the current level. He said USTR Clara Hills would visit Thailand before 26 April to discuss the matter and he felt there could be a way out of the problem.

Amaret said while the United States was planning retaliations against Thailand, it also violated international trade practice by approving subsidies in the 1991 fiscal year for three major agricultural products—oil seeds, livestock, and rice. This caused unfairness in world market and amounted to declaring a war on Thai rice producers. He said he already sent a protest to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

On the next day, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin invited the U.S. ambassador for a meeting on the same topic, appealing for the United States not to take action against Thailand because bilateral relations would be affected. He noted that while Thailand protected intellectual property, it must also protect its U.S. market, which amounted to 20 percent of the overall Thai foreign market. The foreign minister's appeal was politely and diplomatically rejected, the ambassador said he could not make any promise about the Thai appeal because the United States has its own domestic political pressure to consider as well.

It remains to be seen whether the U.S. pressure is aimed at the Thai military government or is merely a normal struggle of an increasingly troubled superpower.

Editorial on Commerce Ministry's Move

BK0405094591 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
3 May 91 p 8

[Editorial: "No Need To Fear Article 301"]

[Text] The Commerce Ministry officials who participated in the negotiations with the U.S. delegation in Amsterdam did the right thing by refusing to comply with the U.S. demands which amounted to an attempt to pressure Thailand to amend its patent and trademark law within a specified time.

Thailand may become among the first countries to be considered for U.S. trade retaliation due to insufficient protection of U.S. intellectual property rights, but it is expected that the impact would be less than if it were to accept the U.S. conditions, which would amount to tolerating U.S. interference in the Thai legislative process. Moreover, the Thai products that would face U.S. trade retaliation are industrial, such as clothing, artificial flowers, and so forth, which although contributing to the overall economy do not affect the majority of the Thai population which consists of farmers. Those most affected would be investors who are already wealthy and capable of using their wealth to invest in other businesses, thus keeping their workers on the job.

If protectionism is undertaken against agricultural products or an attempt is made to take away our markets, then we need not despair because we can explore new markets. There are still many places in the world that suffer from food shortages.

The Thai rejection of the U.S. conditions that we amend our laws is reasonable because it protects Thai interests. If we were to agree to amend the patent law to protect all inventions, including medical products which are already registered in other countries but unavailable in

Thailand, then Thailand will be put in a disadvantageous position. Several countries do not give this type of protection.

We do not regard being among the first countries to face retaliation six months after 26 April as being backed into a corner. But this case will prove whether the United States can come up with a method for resolving the problem that will allow it to coexist with other free world countries.

We greatly sympathize with the United States in its efforts to remedy its internal economic problems, but the United States should sympathize with Thailand too, because to agree to a law amendment is an issue involving honor and sovereignty which we cannot compromise.

Perhaps the U.S. measure which is being used to deal with its own economic problem is obsolete because the present world is one of survival of the fittest. We successfully negotiated the colonial era, now we will have to wage an economic war if necessary. The issue is how can we reach a compromise?

Therefore, we feel that there is no need at all for Thailand to fear U.S. Article 301 because if we are to be slapped with it, China and India will be too.

Rice Exporter on Impact

BK0305135191 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] According to Rice Millers Association President Niphon Wongtrangan, the U.S. designation of Thailand as a Priority Foreign Country, which could result in Thailand being deprived of the Generalized System of Preference privileges or imposed with import quotas, probably will not have much impact on the export of Thai rice to the United States if the United States choses to increase the import duties. Thailand exports about 210,000 tons of rice to the United States. Most of the customers are Asian expatriates. What could cause more concern is U.S. retaliation in the form of imposing conditions which would it make more difficult to import Thai rice, such as requiring rice to be coated with vitamins which would affect exporters immediately because of the time and capital needed to construct needed plants or import machines for mixing rice to achieve the desired contents.

Health Official on Patents Issue

BK0405081691 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 May 91 p 22

[Text] According to Deputy Public Health Minister Atthasit Wetchachiwa, he will submit data concerning medical patents to the Cabinet for consideration in May. He said the medical patent issue will require broad discussion by Cabinet ministers because the issue does not concern only trade or the Commerce Ministry but public health as well.

Asked by reporters what recommendations his ministry will make, Atthasit said he would have to see the Commerce Ministry's report on the negotiations in Amsterdam first, adding that interests of the country and poor people would be kept in mind.

A Public Health Ministry source says in amending the patents law, provisional clauses should be added to the parts dealing with medicine. He disagrees with bilateral negotiations with the United States, preferring multilateral negotiations in GATT. He also opposes patent registration of old medicines and says Thailand must ensure enforcement of patents.

Deputy Public Health Minister Remarks

BK0505075991 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 5 May 91 pp 1, 16

[Text] Speaking to correspondents after a meeting with representatives of the Student Federation of Thailand [FST] on 3 May, Deputy Public Health Minister Atthasit Wetchachiwa said he disagrees with amending the 1979 medical patents law as demanded by the United States and noted that he would discuss the issue with the Commerce Ministry within this month as well as with as many sectors as possible.

Atthasit said amendment of the medical patents law will adversely affect the majority of the population because it will result in a monopoly in, shortage of, and increase in prices for medicines. For example, about 6 million Thais are afflicted by liver flukes, each person requiring the daily dose of three to four tablets, which currently cost 12 baht each; after the amendment the per tablet cost could rise to 87 baht. For this reason, the medical patents issue requires thorough consideration, taking into account the pros and cons of the U.S. trade retaliation threat per Article 301, the projected amendment, as well as the trade protectionism problem.

Meanwhile, Prinya Thewaneramitkun, the FST acting secretary general, said that amendment of the medical patents law will benefit drug importers, whose hoarding will drive up the price of medicine. Therefore, the public should be allowed to involve itself in the issue based on straightforward information to be provided by the Commerce Ministry. The commerce minister has repeatedly avoided a response to his organization's suggestions on this issue on grounds of business interests, Prinya said.

Possible Boycott Over Labor Issue Noted

BK0305153191 Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 22-28 Apr 91 pp 33-39

[Article: "War Against Labor Unions, Time Bomb for NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council]; Labor Movements' Trump Card Revealed!"]

[Excerpts] The promulgation of two labor laws to remove state enterprises from the Labor Relations Act has brought disintegration to the labor movement. About 130 state enterprise labor unions, with more than

200,000 members, have been disbanded. It can be said the labor movement's "head" is being cut off now. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the passage of the two bills, a former labor union leader of the State Railway of Thailand says: "State enterprise labor unions, especially their leaders, were overconfident in the past. That was their big mistake. They lacked courage to fight because they succumbed to benefits. This made it possible for the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] and the government to stage a lightening strike against them." He adds: "There was no unity in the past. Now that the head had been cut off, it is doubtful what they will be able to do next."

Observers believe that, under the present political circumstance, it would be difficult for the state enterprise labor unions to achieve success if they chose to retaliate. All national intelligence agencies are keeping a close watch on labor movements. Yet, it is difficult to evaluate now how much power the labor leaders still have, and if they have enough power left, what their trump cards will be. [passage omitted]

There has been no strong reaction from the labor movements following the enactment of the two labor bills. The most significant protest was the resignation en masse of nine associate judges representing state enterprise employees at the labor relations court. "We will have to discuss later on what our next step should be. Many of us admitted that they still could not think of anything now. Maybe we should wait until our internal problems are solved," comments Sane Tantisano, former leader of the Metropolitan Waterworks Labor Union and secretary general of the State Enterprise Relations Group.

Anyway, several labor leaders confirmed to KHAO PHISET that there will be countermovements in the near future, especially after martial law is lifted because workers would have less to fear.

KHAO PHISET has been told by military intelligence sources that the NPKC and the government are closely following news about a possible work slowdown or refusal to form workers' associations in protest against the new law. But from the assessment, their protests would pose no problem if they are not linked with international organizations.

But it seems that efforts have been made by some labor leaders to get support from international movements to start up the boycott from outside the country.

The only solution to workers to avoid punishment under martial law is through appeals to be made to international labor organizations. This would create a negative impact on the "image" of the country. The next step to be taken could be a boycott or trade sanction which would damage Thailand's trade and economy. It is not difficult to anticipate such action to be taken especially when "trade war" has no boundary as at present. [passage omitted]

A former labor leader in the State Enterprise Labor Relations Group, who used to work closely with the international labor movements, disclosed to KHAO PHISET that, the protest plan to be worked out internationally could start with boycotting sea-going cargo vessels, blocking airspace to prevent air cargo transportation, and finally blocking all kinds of telecommunications services.

According to what they told KHAO PHISET, Wichai Thosuwannachinda and Sakun Susongtham, the two well-versed labor leaders, expressed similar views that the extent of international labor organizations' response to the appeal from Thailand will depend chiefly on how they see the situation here. The Thai Government is trying to justify the new labor law. Sakon voiced concern that supports from international organizations would be fewer if they see that the new laws can replace the old ones without effecting great changes on workers. It is therefore the duty of the labor movements to convince international organizations of what is happening in Thailand.

From a survey by KHAO PHISET, labor leaders do not want Thailand to suffer a trade war, as that would serve the interests of those already protesting against Thailand's violation of labor rights. The Thai labor movements are defending themselves under the legitimate rights they have, and would leave it to international organizations to make a final decision.

Various economists told KHAO PHISET that the current labor conflict in Thailand is untimely because the world is beset by a growing trend in trade protectionism. Countries which are trade competitors or which have trade disputes with Thailand might take advantage of the situation to inflict trade and economic losses on Thailand through fiercer protectionist measures under the pretext of its alleged violation of human rights. [passage omitted]

What Thai the labor movement has done so far is to send a letter to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions [ICFTU], the IMF, and the AFL-CIO, as well as to plan an appeal to be made at the ILO [International Labor Office] conference in Geneva, Switzerland, in June.

Reactions from international labor organizations are gradually pouring in. AFL-CIO, the U.S. labor organization described by Songtham as very powerful both politically and economically in the United States, has already sent a note to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun protesting the removal of state enterprise workers from the Labor Relations Act. The letter indicated that it would lobby for support from various other American groups and the U.S. Congress. Any drastic measure to be adopted by AFL-CIO against Thailand, if any, would certainly be a cut in GSP [Generalized System of Preferences] privileges. Meanwhile, ICFTU also sent a letter to Prime Minister Anan after the NPKC and the government successfully passed the State Enterprise Workers Relations Act. It condemns violation of labor rights and wants Thailand to withdraw the bill.

This is just the beginning of efforts made by international labor organizations. But it has already created a strongly negative impact on Thailand's image. The effect may not be felt immediately, but several economists believe that it will have an adverse long-term impact on

Thailand, especially in the areas of trade and economy. Thailand is already being a target of several countries as trade war is fiercely escalating with every passing day. The last straw picked by the Thai labor movement might become a ball of fire causing serious losses to the Thai economy if international labor organizations chose to support them with an intense velocity. [passage omitted]

Minister, Senior Officials Leave for Middle East

BK0305143391 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, accompanied by senior officials from the Interior and Commerce Ministries, left last night for a visit to the Middle East and the United Kingdom. The visit to the Middle East countries is aimed at strengthening bilateral relations as well as contacting representatives of foreign companies that were awarded contracts in Kuwait's post-war reconstruction. Thailand wished to win subcontracts from those companies for work in Kuwait.

During the visit to the Middle East, the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office will present to the king of Saudi Arabia a message from the Thai king. The minister said he believed the message from his majesty the king would more or less help resolve problems existing between Thailand and Saudi Arabia involving the killings of Saudi diplomats in Bangkok some years ago and concerning the Thai labor problem.

[Begin Kasemsamoson recording in progress] ... our problems should be settled by facts and the justice system. I believe this government, which is not divided into factions, would be able to settle the problem smoothly. My role is not that important, but his majesty's letter will be very significant for our mission. The king was concerned for the welfare and interests of all Thai people. [end recording]

During the trip of M.R. Kasemsamoson and his mission, Thailand will also present humanitarian assistance to Kuwait, and will explore markets for Thai exports to the United Arab Emirates. The minister will also hand over a sum worth a million baht for the Kurdish refugees in Iran.

Report on Thai Team's Activities in Saudi Arabia

BK0605071591 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] According to the Thai Information Office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the Thai Government delegation comprising Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Commerce Ministry Chalo Fuangarom, Deputy Permant Secrectary of the Interior Ministry Chuwong Chayabut, Labor Department Deputy Director Amphon Chunnanon, Foreign Ministry's Economic Department Deputy Director Pradap Phibunsongkhram, and media representatives are currently on a visit to Saudi Arabia to strengthen bilateral relations. The senior Thai officials called on Prince Nayif, the Saudi interior minister, in Jedda on 4 May to exchange views on bilateral relations and problems facing Thai workers. The meeting proceeded in a very cordial atmosphere.

On 5 May the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office and the rest of the Thai Government delegation called on Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi deputy prime minister and defense minister. Kasemsamoson delivered the message from the king to the princess for delivery to King Fahd. The Saudi prince and the Thai delegation discussed ways to achieve closer relations.

Kasemsamoson also met with Thai labor leaders and businessmen at the Thai ambassador's residence in Riyadh to brief them on the purpose of his visit and answer their questions. He urged Thai workers to practice their occupations with diligence and perseverance and promised them that their unresolved problems would be conveyed to the Thai Government for effective solution.

Poland's Skubiszewski Pays 'Short' Visit 4 May

LD0505205891 Warsaw PAP in English 1713 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Bangkok, May 5—Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski paid a short working visit to Thailand on May 4 where he held talks with his Thai counterpart Asa Sarasin.

The ministers reviewed bilateral relations, expressing desire to develop them in all spheres. They also exchanged opinions on the international situation. Considerable attention was given to the situation in Europe and south-east Asia. The need of peaceful solution of the Cambodian problem was stressed.

Minister Skubiszewski invited Asa Sarasin to pay an official visit to Poland.

On Monday Minister Skubiszewski starts his official visit to Australia.

Cambodian Ammunition Unearthed; Border 'Calm'

BK0405023491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 May 91 p 3

[Text] Aranyaprathet—An ammunition stockpile believed stolen from the Khmer Rouge was discovered by Border Patrol Police [BPP] yesterday.

The BPP found 189 60mm mortar shells, 85 anti-aircraft artillery shells and 43 boxes of gunpowder hidden in the jungle about 150 metres from the border.

District chief officer Thongchai Phatthanakru and 12th BPP Superintendent Seksan Unsamran said the ammunition might have been hidden by the Khmer Rouge in the wake of a cease-fire.

However, the ammunition may have been intended for sale to arms dealers who in turn would have sold it to minority groups on the Thai-Burmese border, they speculated.

Informed sources said the ammunition had been stolen from a depot belonging to the Khmer Rouge 450th Division based in the Phnom Malai mountain range.

Border sources said the situation on the border had been calm since Wednesday, but the Phnom Penh regime and the resistance factions kept their combat forces on full alert and remained in stand-to positions.

The warring factions could be ready for combat at any moment despite the cease-fire, the source said.

Businessman Abducted in Vietnam, Ransom Paid

BK0505071391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 May 91 p 1

[Excerpt] On February 22, businessman Banchoet Kritsanawonghong got off the plane in Ho Chi Minh City for what he thought would be a business trip. But for the scrap iron merchant and his wife, Ratcharin, the journey to Vietnam turned into a nightmare.

As they were about to return to Bangkok after four days, they were abducted by a group of Vietnamese men. Mr Banchoet was accused of cheating on a scrap iron deal and the couple were threatened with death if they did not pay.

The couple ended up paying about 11.2 million baht to a Vietnamese firm for their freedom.

Mr Banchoet's case is the most recent example of a handful of abductions resulting from business disputes.

An informed source in Ho Chi Minh City told POST enquiry there have been two or three other abductions of Thais following business and trade disputes with Vietnamese.

The source did not elaborate on the other cases but said that with more than 150 official and unofficial Thai business delegations having visited Ho Chi Minh City so far this year, more problems and complications between Thai and Vietnamese businesses can be expected.

Whether abduction and demands for cash settlement of disputes is rampant is not known, but sources said the problem rests on both sides—unscrupulous Thai and Vietnamese operators. [passage omitted]

SRV Ambassador Comments

BK0505071691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 May 91 p 8

[Text] While expressing "serious concern" after being told of Mr Banchoet's case, Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung said steps are already under way to set up a legal framework to govern business and trade relations between Thailand and Vietnam.

Ambassador Trung declined to comment specifically on the Banchoet abduction because he did not have enough information but said he has reported all details to authorities in Hanoi.

"If I don't have any information I don't want to be interviewed about this. Of course, I am very concerned about this report. So it would be better when I get more information.

"I have requested some sources in Hanoi for information but I have to wait. That means I am very seriously concerned about this issue.

"One thing is sure. It is neither the policy of Thai or Vietnamese government to ignore such things.

"I have already given all the information to our authorities. That means I am very serious about this. Where I can help, I will try to help. There's one thing that is very sure. Crime has to be punished, everywhere. That is clear," he told POST Enquiry.

The ambassador said both governments are working out a framework to overcome trade disputes following the recent visit by Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai.

"For example, we are preparing to sign the setting up of a Joint Economic Commission. That will be the body to take care of all business activities between the two countries.

"The second step is to try to negotiate an agreement of avoidance of double taxation and the third is a mutual agreement on the promotion and protection of investment and business activities between the two countries.

"This will be a good framework for the security of business activities between the two countries," the ambassador said.

He said Vietnam is also trying to join Interpol "to arrange tackling some criminal things if necessary between countries."

The ambassador said that some months ago a Vietnamese national fled the country to Thailand after cheating the government and the public of billions of dong.

He said it was difficult to pursue the case because there was no agreement with Thailand regarding handling of criminals.

"Between Vietnam and other socialist countries there would be no problem. But between Thailand and Vietnam such an agreement does not exist. There are enough criminals in your country and in our country," he said.

The ambassador said one problem was that many Thai businessmen had come to Vietnam, bought considerable amounts of gemstones and tried to smuggle them out of the country, adding that this was a big problem for Vietnamese officials.

Vietnamese law states that special permission is needed to take out precious stones gold or silver but smuggling continues with the gemstones leaving the country by overland routes through Laos and Cambodia and by sea through the South.

Sources said the Vietnamese have long complained about the behaviour of Thai fishing companies which had previously signed contracts with the Vietnamese Government.

They said that while some firms have been given contracts to send in a specific number of boats, the firms send in more than stipulated.

The sources said the Vietnamese authorities also suspect that not all fishing boats enter southern territorial areas just for fishing. A number of boats may bring in contraband consumer goods and take out smuggled items.

When Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai visited Bangkok both sides raised the problem of how to coordinate work between the two countries to solve consular issues.

The ambassador said it was agreed that consular officials from both countries should get together and discuss what the cooperation should be to solve such problems.

"The Vietnamese and Thai government do not want a negative situation to occur and we hope that such an agreement is signed, then we have more and more legal instruments to solve these problems.

"I am optimistic because both governments are aware of the necessity of such things. There is a very big need to solve these problems.

"I am optimistic because both governments are aware of the necessity of such things. There is a very big need to solve these problems.

"After the political change in Thailand there has been no disruption between relations between our two countries and this is a good thing. There have been concrete steps discussed to achieved this and I am encouraged.

"I expect Foreign Minister Asa to go to Vietnam to sign the first agreement in later June or July. The draft has been accepted by both sides.

"After signing we will establish the commission at once. We agreed that we should hand over to this commission to handle all economic issues including the two remaining agreements. The commission's first work is the two remaining agreements" Ambassador Trung said.

Vietnam

U.S. Senator Leads Delegation on Visit

BK0505120791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] On 4 and 5 May, U.S. Senator John Kerry, member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, visited Vietnam. He was accompanied by some assistants. The delegation visited Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and his lifetime home and working place.

The delegation was cordially received by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh. It held talks with Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister. Both sides exchanged views on the bilateral Vietnam-U.S. relations and other issues of mutual concern. Kerry's delegation also had meetings with Nguyen Thi Binh, chairwoman of the National Assembly's External Affairs Committee, Dang Xuan Ky, dean of Vietnam Social Science Institute, and Minister Phan Hien, chairman of the Vietnam-U.S. Association.

The meetings took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. On the afternoon of 5 May, Senator John Kerry and his delegation left Hanoi.

Ends Visit; Arrives in Phnom Penh

BK0605040091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] After paying a visit to Vietnam, U.S. Senator John Kerry, member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and his assistants arrived in Phnom Penh on 5 May for a working visit to Cambodia. The U.S. senator said he regretted that the U.S. Government has rejected having contacts with the Phnom Penh Government.

Do Muoi, Others Leave for Soviet Union

BK0405160591 Hanoi VNA in English 1417 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 4—Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, left here today for a working visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

He was accompanied by Tran Duc Luong, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Khai, Chairman of the State Planning Commission Hoang Thuc Tan, Deputy Director of the Office of the Council of Ministers Ho Huan Nghiem, Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission Vu Khoan, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Kim Lang, Deputy Minister of Trade and [word indistinct] Pham Van Trong, deputy minister of finance. The delegation was seen off by State Council President Vo Chi Cong, Vice-chairmen of the Council of Ministers: Vo Van Kiet, Nguyen Co Thach, Dong Sy Nguyen, Vo Nguyen Giap, Nguyen Khanh, and others.

Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam R.L. Khamidulin was present.

Commentary on Do Muoi's Visit

BK0605123991 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 6 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The visit to the Soviet Union by the Vietnamese Government's top leader is aimed at consolidating the relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, especially economic cooperation between the two countries.

In fact, in the new situation, the two countries have step by step made qualitative changes in their economic and commercial relations. The changes have started since early this year when a delegation of the Vietnamese State Planning Committee led by its Chairman Phan Van Khai visited the Soviet Union and signed with the host country an agreement on economic and commercial cooperation and an agreement on shifting their economic and commercial ties into a new mechanism. These two agreements are of important significance to the two countries. They pave the way for economic organizations of the two countries to enlarge their cooperation on the basis of the new mechanism.

This year, despite many difficulties, the Soviet Union still commits to provide Vietnam with key items such as petrol and oil, fertilizer, steel, cotton, and other commodities. The Soviet Union continues to reserve for Vietnam its credit of convertible currency to help Vietnam build important projects—the Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Power Plant, the high-voltage line—and upgrade the electric grids in big cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, and many medical and educational projects in Vietnam.

To Vietnam, when its economic relations with the Soviet Union have shifted into the new mechanism, Vietnam has tried its best to fulfill its commitments. This year, Vietnam will supply the Soviet Union with rubber, tea, coffee, rice, oil, and light industrial commodities. Vietnam has created favorable conditions for its economic organizations and agencies to have direct relations with their Soviet Union counterparts.

On this basis, the working visit to the Soviet Union of Chairman Do Muoi will certainly make contributions to consolidating and strengthening the traditional friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. Also on this occasion Vietnam affirms its support for efforts of the Communist Party, government, and people of the USSR to stabilize the situation, maintain the united and renovated Soviet Union, and continue restructuring to bring the country to prosperity and happiness. Vietnam continues to unite and cooperate with the Soviet Union on the road of renovation and enhance the effectiveness of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Press Release Issued on DPRK Official's Visit

BK0605044391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 May 91

["Press Release" on visit by DPRK Vice President Li Chong-ok to Vietnam; date not given]

[Text] At the invitation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, a DPRK delegation led by Comrade Li Chong-ok, vice president of the DPRK paid an official visit to Vietnam on 27 April-2 May.

During the visit, the DPRK delegation laid wreaths at President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and toured his home and office.

The DPRK delegation was cordially received by Comrades Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; and Pham Van Dong, adviser to the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Central Committee.

Comrade Li Chong-ok presented to General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, Chairman Vo Chi Cong, and Comrade Pham Van Dong a letter from comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Korean Workers Party [KWP] and president of the DPRK expressing his kind regards to the Vietnamese leaders.

Comrades Nguyen Van Linh, Vo Chi Cong, and Pham Van Dong expressed their profound thanks to Comrade Kim Il-song for his letter and kind regards, and asked the DPRK delegation to convey their warm greetings to President Kim Il-song.

During its stay in Vietnam, the DPRK delegation visited many economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Haiphong and Nam Dinh Municipalities, and Quang Ninh Province.

A delegation of the Vietnamese Government led by Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Quyet held talks with the DPRK Government delegation led by Vice President Li Chong-ok.

The two sides informed each other of the socioeconomic situation in each country, exchanged views on efforts to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two nations, and reviewed international and regional issues of mutual concern. The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and openess.

The Vietnamese side expressed its pleasure at the success of the Korean people in nation building and development during the past 40 years, and wished the Korean people many new achievements in implementing the third seven-year development plan and other resolutions of the KWP. It also expressed the Vietnamese party, government, and people's profound sympathy with the Korean people's aspiration for national unification, and a strong support for the fair and rational initiatives and proposals of the Korean party, government, and people aimed at reunifying the country in peace and sovereignty.

The Korean side sincerely thanked the Vietnamese party, government, and people for their sympathy and valuable support. The Korean side welcomed the important results achieved by the Vietnamese people in implementing the renovation cause set forth by the Sixth CPV Congress, and wished the CPV and people more achievements in the renovation undertaking, thereby contributing to stabilizing all domains to develop the nation.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that the relations between the two parties, governments, and peoples have made new steps in development since the visit to Korea by a delegation of the Vietnamese Government led by President Vo Chi Cong, and firmly believed that those relations will further develop in the interests of the two peoples, and for peace and stability in Asia and the world.

The Vietnamese side expressed its sincere thanks to the DPRK people for their support and assistance given to the Vietnamese people to carry out their revolutionary cause.

The Vietnamese side highly appreciated the DPRK Government's decision to provide Vietnam with nonprofit credit for the building of the Hinh River hydroelectsric power station.

The two sides held that the splendid success of the official visit to Vietnam by the DPRK Government delegation will contribute to further developinging the Vietnam-DPRK relations of friendship and cooperation.

On this occasion, the two sides signed a plan on cultural and scientific cooperation between the two governments for 1991, and a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries.

Vo Chi Cong Congratulates Albanian President

BK0405154691 Hanoi VNA in English 1414 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 4—State Council President Vo Chi Cong today extended his congratulations to Ramiz Alia on his election as president of the Republic of Albania.

President Vo Chi Cong expressed firm belief that the traditional friendship and cooperation between the Vietnamese and Albanian peoples would further consolidate and develop.

State Council Communique Issued on Meetings

BK0405101291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 May 91

[State Council Communique on 29 April and 2 May Meetings]

[Text] On 29 April and 2 May 1991, the State Council met under the chairmanship of President Vo Chi Cong.

1. The State Council listened to a representative of the Constitution Amendment Committee report on the drafting of amendments to the 1980 Constitution and an estimate of work of the committee from now until the end of the eighth National Assembly legislature.

In May, the Constitution Amendment Committee will solicit the views concerning the first draft amendment to the Constitution from National Assembly deputies, high-ranking and medium-level cadres of all ministries, sectors, committees and mass organizations at the central and provincial levels, special zones, and cities directly subordinate to the central government.

The State Council welcomed the progress of work of the Constitution Amendment Committee and made some suggestions for the committee to solicit views this time so as to compile and present the draft amendment at the mid-year National Assembly session for comment. Then, the draft amendment to the constitution will be continually perfected and put out for public opinion countrywide.

2. The State Council heard a supplementary report of the Council of Ministers and examined the draft regulations on citizens' complaints and denunciation which had been compiled at its suggestion in its 29 January 1991 meeting. On the strength of this report and its acceptance of the views of National Assembly deputies, echelons, sectors, the people's committees of some localities and the National Assembly's judiciary committee, the State Council approved these regulations.

The regulations on citizens's complaints and denunciation are established and based on the overall summary of experiences in 10 years of enforcing the regulations. The regulations stipulate the examination and settlement of citizens' complaints and denunciation, and specify the rights to lodge complaints and denunciation and the procedures for settling citizen's complaints and denunciation. They aim to strengthen the socialist legal system and protect the interests of the state and collectives, and the legal rights and benefits of citizens.

The Council of Ministers should promptly publish specific guidances to ensure effective implementation of these regulations.

3. The Council of State approved the regulations on civilian contracts which have been compiled at its suggestion at its 29 January 1991 meeting. These regulations guarantee legal safety for the relations in civilian contracts governed by the conditions of developing the multisectorial economy of commodities, protect the legal rights and benefits, uphold the responsibility of all sides in the contracts and help accelerate production, business, and the circulation of goods. The regulations can be applied to the purchasing, selling, hiring, borrowing, and donating of assets, and to the implementation of industrial work or service which is aimed at serving the needs of life activities and consumption.

In order to allow the regulations to play a role in adjusting the relations of civil law, the Council of Ministers and responsible agencies should expeditiously examine, modify, and supplement the documents to be published in this field to conform with the various stipulations of the civil contract regulations.

4. After hearing the Council of Ministers report a bill on publication and the suggestions of the National Assembly's judiciary and cultural and educational committees, the Council of State gave its views for these committees together with the drafting committee of the Council of Ministers to continually compile this bill and present it at the coming National Assembly session.

The publication law is aimed at guaranteeing the rights to freedom of speech and to make public citizens' works in the form of publications, at systematizing and disciplining publishing operations, and at developing the role of publication in national construction and defense.

5. The State Council listened to a report on the results of welcoming Indian President Venkataraman who officially visited our country from 24 to 28 April 1991. It highly evaluated the fine results of the talks between Chairman Vo Chi Cong of the State Council and President Venkataraman.

The State Council warmly welcomed the visit as a new developmental step that contributed to strengthening the relations of traditional friendship and comprehensive cooperation between our country and India in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and for the cause of peace, development, and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The State Council heard a report on the results of the official friendly visits to the Soviet Union from 27 March to 3 April 1991 and to Romania from 3 to 7 April 1991 by our National Assembly delegation led by its Chairman Le Quang Dao.

The State Council warmly welcomed the fine successes of the official friendly visit to the Soviet Union by our National Assembly delegation which contributed to strengthening the relations of traditional solidarity and friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the national assemblies and peoples of Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

The State Council warmly welcomed the positive results of talks between our National Assembly delegation and the Romanian side which contributed to strengthening the relations of friendship and mutual understanding between our country and Romania.

6. As recommended by the Council of Ministers chairman, the State Council decided that Comrade Vo Dong Giang be relieved from his positions of minister and deputy head of the state commission for cooperation and investment so that he can retire.

7. As recommended by the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, the State Council decided to appoint some people's jurors of the People's Supreme Court.

Official Remarks on Constitutional Amendments

BK0405111691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Hanoi, May 4 (AFP)—Vietnam's constitutional reforms, allowing for greater separation of party and state, will go before the National Assembly in July, an official source said.

"It is envisaged that the draft of the amended constitution will be presented at the next session of the National Assembly in July ... before being adopted during the year-end session," said Tran Trong Tan, head of the Vietnamese Communist Party's ideological commission.

The State Council has been meeting in recent days to fine-tune the amendments to Vietnam's 1980 Constitution, the official NHAN DAN newspaper said Saturday.

The committee charged with reforming the Constitution includes President Vo Chi Cong and Prime Minister Do Muoi, two influentual Politburo members.

Well-informed Vietnamese sources said the amendments deal with the role of the party, which has been all powerful in the state apparatus, and which would be more distant from the executive and legislature.

This reform would also take account economic changes in Vietnam in the last few years, marked by the growing importance of the private sector encouraged since the 1986 Communist Party congress.

The 1980 Constitution defined the framework of a collective economy based on state and cooperative ownership, the failure of which has thrown Vietnam into a deep economic crisis.

Since 1988, Vietnamese leaders have officially acknowledged the country's "long-term" need for a market economy, which is to be recognised in the upcoming constitution.

The next party congress—to take place at the end of June, according to Mr. Tan—will discuss a proposal that takes into account Vietnam's new economic policy and [word indistinct] out directions for the future.

According to the plan, the country would continue reforms such as the development of a large private sector and the appeal for foreign investment.

Vietnam modified the prelude to the Constitution in December 1988 to take account of its new foreign policy.

The prelude no longer names China, the United States, France and Japan as aggressors of Vietnam, referring only to "colonialists and imperialists" in its section on the country's history.

Vietnam has adopted a policy of rapprochement with the capitalist countries of Asia and Europe, while its ties with nations of the former social bloc are loosening.

Hanoi is also trying to normalise relations with China in the context of a settlement to the Cambodian conflict, and to begin reconciliation with the United States even though the two countries do not have diplomatic links.

Article on Role, Power of Party Published

BK0105155791 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Excerpts from article by Nguyen Phu Trong in 10 April NHAN DAN "Is the Party an Organ of Power?"]

[Text] First of all in my opinion, we should understand the concepts of power and organ of power. When referring to power, it usually means power of the state and power of the administrator or ruler. Organ of power and state organ means the same thing. State power, in fact, is political power itself. State power and political power are inseparable.

In view of this, we should not consider the party an organ of power. Under a socialist system, all power belongs to the people. The state alone is the organ that represents the power of the people and manifests and executes their will.

The party, according to its etiquette, is the organization of those most active people who voluntarily work for the same aim for the interests of a social class or stratum. In Vietnam, the Communist Party is one that represents the interests of the working class, the laboring people, and the people as a whole.

The leadership of the party is the decisive factor in ensuring that the people truly exercise their power. However, the party is not a people's elected organ of power. By considering the party as an organ of power, we will seek to turn it into a state organ, thus violating the principle of socialist democracy.

In the past, due to our failure to elucidate this matter, there has been a misunderstanding about the role and position of the party, thus causing people to treat the party as if it was an organization that ruled over society or the highest organ of power above or outside the law. This has given rise to many wrong practices and negative habits, such as dogmatism, despotism, and arrogant interference in the work of the state and mass organizations.

In the renovation process that has been carried out for a few years now, it is necessary to cricticize the above misunderstanding and wrongs. Otherwise, we cannot effect new changes and correct shortcomings and mistakes. This, however, has also given rise to the tendency to diminish and narrow down or renounce the leading role of the party.

A number of people have advised that the party should only supervise political work in a perfunctory and flexible manner and should not control cadres and take on inspection work. This means that the party would no longer have any power, and that it would not matter whether or not the party's policy of renovation was implemented due to a possible lack of persuasiveness. Based on this, these people would reach the conclusion that a multiparty system is needed to promote competition in persuading and motivating the masses.

Some of them have even called on the party openly to give up all power, the entire leadership to resign, to dissolve all its departments, and to return power to the people.

This is an incorrect and extreme tendency. In my opinion, because it is not a state organ of power, the party should vigorously change its mode of leadership. However, the party still remains an organization with power. The leadership of the party must be imbued with power that is closely linked to its responsibility.

Without power and responsibility, the party cannot assume the role of leadership. And if we refuse to recognize the party as an organization with power, we will pay less attention to the leadership of the party and its organizations, thus easily leading us to shirk our responsibility when mistakes are made based our decision and guidance.

In light of the present situation, the two most important conditions for the party to successfully play a vanguard role in leadership are that the party must be imbued with intelligence equivalent to its mission, and must be an extremely rigid organization, and that party cadres and members must possess knowledge and a scientific background, especially in socioeconomic management, and be imbued with political initiatives.

The organizational rigidity of the party lies in its strict discipline on the basis of fostering democracy under a rational mechanism. The party must ensure its internal unity and must not consider itself as a social club.

Do Muoi Visits Thai Binh Province

BK0505144191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 May 91

[By station correspondent Dinh Khai]

[Text] Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, recently paid a working visit to Thai Binh Province. Party committee secretary Chu Vi and chairman of the People's Committee of Thai Binh Province reported the local socioeconomic situation to Chairman Do Muoi and accompanied the chairman to Hung Ha District and some industrial installations in the province.

Chairman Do Muoi happily realized that Thai Binh Province has progressed considerably over the past few years from the socioeconomic, political security, and public order and safety standpoints. Noteworthy were achievements in the production of grain and other food products. However, Thai Binh Province is still weak in some respects: Its export quota value is still low and not commensurate with the potential of a province rich in agricultural products. The province has not optimally exploited all its potentials in terms of labor and land. Its technical equipment is still poor. As a result, the quality of goods is still poor and not competitive in markets.

Suggesting the guidelines for socioeconomic development in the coming years, Chairman Do Muoi specified: As a province with a low average ratio of cultivated land among the northern provinces, Thai Binh must have positive and uniform measures to develop agriculture comprehensively in which the technical revolution must play the leading role to quickly increase productivity and the volume of grain production and to catch up with the rate of population growth. The province must turn animal husbandry into a main production sector to resolve the problem of unemployment, meet the demands for food and fertitilizer, and create food exports. Besides grain and livestock raising, the province must continually accelerate the planting of industrial crops—only those crops yielding better than rice. Investment must be uniform in all domains ranging from crop cultivation to the processing and consumption of those crops yielding fruits, timber and fuel, and even the growing of dune plants along the coast, and this must be considered an important economic program norm.

Chairman Do Muoi stressed that Thai Binh should develop handicrafts and artisan industry even more quickly, and concentrate first of all on the processing of grain and food products and other agricultural and maritime products. It must optimally use its local potentials in terms of natural gas, raw material plants such as mulberry, rush and medicinal plants. Thai Binh must also make optimal use of its abundant labor force and a large contingent of scientific and technical workers. It must attentively develop traditional jobs and occupations such as sculpture, weaving, and silk spinning. All echelons must pay attention to in-depth investment and renovation of technology in order to raise the quality of products and diversify products and, at the same time, satisfactorily settle the problem of a consumers' market.

Learning from the experience of the pharmaceutical enterprise, the province should build industrial models relevant to the new mechanism of management in which state-run industry plays the leading role and collective and family organizations serve as satellites. State-run industry must take care of technical investment and cooperation at home and abroad so as to look for raw materials, markets, and new technology. Collectives and families must be concerned with production relevant to contracts in order to turn out good quality products. They must also be concerned with investment in order to expand production, using self-procured capital. Furthermore, these groups should also care for workers' livelihood.

A network of credits in rural areas should be expanded to lend money to peasants for production purposes and to oppose current loans at high interest rates.

Chairman Do Muoi repeatedly urged the province to accelerate export—considering it the vital direction for the local economy—on the basis of exploiting the strengths of agricultural and maritime products. The province must promptly turn out various spearhead exports for a stabilized market. Profits from export must be reinvested in agriculture and other economic sectors to create new labor productivity, new products and capital accumulation for the development of production, and to help improve the people's livelihood.

Thai Binh Province must satisfactorily redistribute its labor in order to better use its currently available labor and land and must establish plans to send its labor force to other regions countrywide for economic development. It should attentively raise the people's intellectual standard in close connection with the raising of technological standards to serve socioeconomic development.

The chairman then went to visit Hung Ha District. Hung Ha is rated the best district in Thai Binh Province which outstandingly achieved the average yield of 10.5 tonnes of rice per hectare over the past three years in a row. It also took the lead countrywide with respect to district level communications and level I general school education. Of the 34 villages in the district, 26 villages now have electricity and 90 percent of households now have tiled roof houses.

Chairman Do Muoi commended Hung Ha District for its achievements in developing the economy and culture, improving the people's living conditions, and making contributions to the state. He expected that in the coming years, Hung Ha would attain the goals of giving level II general school education to one-third of the villages, electrifying the entire district, and building brick houses for all households in the district, and that Hung Ha would be a model district for Thai Binh Province and for the entire country as a whole.

At the pharmaceutical enterprise, one of the models in production and business which has worked along the line of renovating management of Thai Binh Province, Chairman Do Muoi paid attention to the experiences in organizing the processing of medicinal herbs in the country to produce medicines and the use of self-procured capital to make in-depth technical investment to raise the quality of 25 types of medicines used nationwide and to achieve US$300,000- 400,000 worth of exports each year.

The chairman commended the enterprise for having taken the right direction in the past few years to have exploited the domestic sources of medicinal herbs to produce medicines to meet the peoples' demands for medicines inside and outside the province, and, at the same time, to have turned out valuable exports. He expected that in the future, the enterprise would continue to modernize its chain of production, accelerate the development of national medicinal sources, raise the technological standard, turn out many new types of medicines to replace imported ones, expand export and do effective business in order to accumulate capital, expand production, and improve the living conditions of cadres and workers.

Do Muoi visited the Huong Sen private weaving enterprise run by Mr. Tran Van Sen's family. It employs 200 skilled workers and 1,000 sanitation workers to turn out nearly 2 million items annually. During his visit there, Chairman Do Muoi affirmed that our party and state have emphasized the development of all economic sectors, and have helped restore and develop handicraft production. He said that if people, including party members, are able to invest manpower and material assets in developing production in keeping with the party's lines and policies, and scrupulously comply with the state law, they will be encouraged and given favorable conditions to conduct production and business.

The chairman reminded Thai Binh Province of the need to draw upon the experiences of Huong Sen enterprise to build more shareholding companies and enterprises in the province. He also visited the hemp factory of the light industry ministry and the union of hemp factories of Thai Binh Province which are two of many industries that are encountering problems in production and in selling products. He expressed sympathy with the difficulties of the installations and suggested some ideas to find a way out for production in order to effectively exploit the sources of hemp supply and the skills of people in Thai Binh Province.

First Quarter Export Value Drops By 12 Percent

BK0605133991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] In the first quarter of 1991, the total export value of the entire country dropped by 12 percent compared with the same period last year. This situation was caused by unrest in the East European market and by the fact that some export items were still not in season, that many import-export agencies lacked capital to buy goods for export or faced numerous difficulties regarding foreign currency exchange rates, and that some import-export mechanisms and policies have not been promptly revised.

Meanwhile, owing to market availability, the export value of some items such as coal, tin, and crude oil has doubled compared with the corresponding period last year. However, some items of high export value such as rice have faced difficulty this year. The export value of coffee has been fairly high, but at present although some localities still have coffee for export, there is no export quota left. If more quotas are available, much more coffee may still be exported. Nearly 500 state-run units now directly engage in import-export activities. However, some of them are not authorized to register for general import-export business. For this reason, they have encountered difficulty in business transactions.

Ho Chi Minh City's Export Figures Reported

BK0305065191 Hanoi VNA in English 0623 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 3—Ho Chi Minh City's export value in the first quarter of this year reached U.S.$57.5 million dollars and 500,000 rubles while the import value totalled U.S.$43.3 million and 3.5 million rubles. It is a 3.6 percent-drop in terms of the export value and a 27 percent-increase in term of the import value compared with the same period last year.

While the export of traditional farm products reduced sharply, the export value of forest and sea products wore up by 51 and 92 percent respectively. Change was also seen in the import structure with raw materials accounting for 51.7 percent, consumer goods 33.3 percent, equipment and spare parts 14.9 percent.

The shortage of capitals by many import-export companies was considered the main cause lending to the fall in export value. In 1991, the city plans to achieve an export value of U.S.$500 million, an increase of U.S.$125 million over last year, and draw in U.S.$250 million of foreign investments.

Ho Chi Minh City Officials, Businessmen Meet

BK0305141991 Hanoi VNA in English 1246 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 3—The mayor and vice-mayor of Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen Vinh Nghiep and Pham Chanh Truc respectively, had a get-together at the Thong Nhat Conference Hall on May 1 evening with some 150 representatives of foreign economic organizations in the city on the 16th anniversary of the liberation of South Vietnam (April 30) and May Day.

Speaking at the function, Pham Chanh Truc brought out the initial results of Vietnam's open-door renovation policy, which, he said, was clearly manifested in the increasing number of foreign businessmen in Vietnam, particularly in Ho Chi Minh City. He said that more and more foreign investtment projects are taking effect in different fields ranging from oil exploration and exploitation, industrial productuon, processing of consumer goods. "Despite many difficulties, our door is open wide to foreign cooperation," he added.

AFP: Writer Expelled From Party Before Arrest

BK0305145591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Hanoi May 3 (AFP)—The Vietnamese Communist Party expelled writer Duong Thu Huong for lack of discipline prior to her recent arrest, a communist party official said Friday. Tran Trong Tan, the head of the party's ideological commission, told a press conference that an investigation was being carried out on Ms. Huong, who had been "provisionally arrested," but that he did not know if she would stand trial.

He did not say when the party expelled Ms. Huong, well known as much because of her non-conformist attitudes and courage as her talent. She was arrested on April 14.

Mr. Tran said she had been arrested for "illegal acts" touching on national security, adding this type of provisional arrest could be applied to all citizens and was not a case of "differing opinions." The police recently accused Ms. Huong of trying to send documents abroad.

Mr. Tran also told the conference that another prominent writer, journalist Nguyen Khac Vien, was suspected of similar acts. Mr. Vien recently came to prominence with the publication of a petition critical of the party's policies. He said he understood Mr. Vien had sent a party discussion document abroad and if this were found to be true it would "not conform" with party rules.

Observers said it was exceptional for a senior party official to make this sort of explanation at a press conference and suggested the country's leaders were concerned over the party's negative image a few weeks before its congress. Mr. Tran admitted that preparations for the congress, which he said was due "at the end of June," had stirred up considerable debate among intellectuals. Intellectuals had put forward a number of views during debates on policy documents issued by the 7th congress, he said, adding that the party had made the documents public to "encourage freedom of thought," as it was good "to have different opinions which stimulate debate."

Vietnamese sources said there had been considerable opposition to the party line not only among intellectuals, but also among the young. Vietnam's leadership has several times condemned the movement towards democracy in East European countries and reiterated its intention of keeping Vietnam socialist.

Group of Counterfeiters Receive Jail Sentences

BK0405163491 Hong Kong AFP in English 2041 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Hanoi, May 3 (AFP)—A group of banknote counterfeiters from Ho Chi Minh City have received jail sentences ranging from one year to 17 years, the TUOI TRE newspaper reported.

The group, led by 37-year-old printer Nguyen Quang Duc, began forging banknotes in March 1990 and then distributed them, the Ho Chi Minh City paper said, without giving the face value of the banknotes involved. Hanoi television last year announced the arrest in south Vietnam of a group that was forging notes of 5,000 dongs and 2,000 dongs (0.6 dollars and 0.25 dollars), the country's largest notes.

Ha Court in Ho Chi Minh City sentenced Nguyen Quang Duc last Friday to 17 years in jail and accomplice Dam Thi Thanh to six years' imprisonment.

Another three people received prison sentences of between one and four years for hiding the counterfeiters, the TUOI TRE said.

Government Issues New Religious Regulations

BK0305080091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0352 GMT 3 May 91

[By Jean Claude Chapon]

[Text] Hanoi, May 3 (AFP)—The Vietnamese Government has issued new regulations governing the practice of religion in the country, warning that any activities that threaten the state will be punished, according to a Catholic journal here.

The decree, published in the latest issue of the monthly NGUOI CONG GIAO (The Vietnamese Catholic) applies to all religions practised in Vietnam, of which the main forms are Bhuddism, Christianity, Cao Daiism and Islam.

Foreign observers said the new regulations effectively tighten state control over the practice of religion, which has enjoyed a resurgence here, especially among young people.

While guaranteeing freedom of religion, the decree stipulates that religious activities must conform "to the Constitution and the law" and must be carried out under the strict surveillance of local, regional and central authorities.

According to the edict, "any act which, posing as religion, attempts to sabotage national independence and go against the state will be punished according to the law."

The new edict, which replaces a 1977 resolution on religion, follows a period of relative liberalisation of government policy towards religious practice.

A foreign Roman Catholic observer said the new declaration "offers nothing new in any area ... But it is more detailed, which tightens state control."

Under the decree, any nominations to religious office in Vietnam must be approved by the government, as must be travel abroad by Vietnamese clerics or visits here by foreign clerics.

Government approval must also be sought for any religious meetings, such as regional and national conferences, as well as for the opening of any religious schools or seminaries.

More than 60 per cent of Vietnamese are Buddhists grouped into an official body, the Buddhist Church of Vietnam, which is strictly controlled by Hanoi.

According to Vatican estimates, there are some four million Catholics in Vietnam, who are represented by the official United Committee of Vietnamese Catholicism.

The Catholic community, centered mainly in the south of the country, has long been treated with suspicion by the authorities, who view Catholicism as a foreign religion and accuse its adherents of having collaborated with the French during Vietnam's colonial days.

While the close-knit community has witnessed a relative relaxation of government control over its freedom to worship, it is still subject to close scrutiny, especially in the prevailing atmospere of political tension linked to Hanoi's concern with the democratisation of Eastern Europe.

Australia

Australia To Send 70 Troops To Help Kurds

BK0605082391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Canberra, May 6 (AFP)—Australia will send about 70 soldiers to the northern Iraq border area with Turkey to help Kurdish refugees, Defence Minister Robert Ray said Monday.

He told reporters that four medical teams and a dental team, with supporting headquarters units and a water purification team, would be sent to British-built refugee camps in the area.

Mr. Ray said the soldiers would carry rifles and other "personal weapons," but would be authorised to shoot only in self-defence.

They will leave Australia Friday for 30 days, but their deployment might be extended by up to three months.

They will be under Australian command but might come under British "tactical control" at times, Mr. Ray said.

Australia, which contributed three naval vessels to the U.S.-led force that forced the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait in February, had decided on humanitarian grounds to send troops to help refugees from the subsequent internal conflict in Iraq, Mr. Ray said.

"We volunteered rather than being asked," he said.

He put the danger as "moderate to low," but added: "there's always some danger, there's difficulty in terms of terrain, possible difficulty with regard to mines. The danger of physical clashes is rated low."

Mr. Ray said Australia had not yet informed Iraq that it was sending the troops.

Wheat Board Denies Reports of Deal With Iraq

BK0605064891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0416 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Sydney, May 6 (AFP)—The Australian Wheat Board (AWB) on Monday denied reports from the Middle East that it had renewed trade with Iraq.

AWB Spokesman Alex Nicols said a delegation which had just left Iraq had failed to secure any deals.

"Negotiations have begun," he said. "It's far too early to talk about contracts."

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY on Sunday quoted Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih as saying Iraq had signed an agreement with Australia to import one million tonnes of wheat in 1991.

Australia had expected to export 1.8 million tonnes of wheat worth more than 400 million Australian dollars (310 million U.S.) to Iraq in 1990, but trade was suspended after the invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq owes Australia about 600 million dollars (465 million U.S.) for wheat shipped before the war on two-year credit terms and some payments have been due for more than a year.

Charles Stott, AWB's Middle East marketing manager, said on radio here that Iraq's assets should be unfrozen and its oil exports allowed to resume so it can pay its debts.

"Despite the fact that there is a desire to [do] business on both sides, at the moment there is a question of the capacity to pay," Mr. Stott said.

"The Iraqis really need some assets unfrozen to buy foodstuffs that are desperately needed in the country ... Or they need to be able to start exporting oil again to generate income so that they can buy foodstuffs," he said.

Japan Urged To Take Lead Role in Trade Talks

OW0105084491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Sydney, May 1 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Motoji Kondo arrived in Canberra on Wednesday to attend a Japan-Australian ministerial session Thursday and Friday.

A total of six cabinet ministers, two vice ministers, and an accompanying staff of 60 will represent Japan at the 11th Australia-Japan ministerial committee.

Regional security and economic relations will be the two major topics for discussion, Australian officials said.

During the meeting, Australia will press Japan to take a leading role in the Uruguay round of trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) by opening its rice market, the officials said.

"The agricultural issue must be solved if the Uruguay round is to be successful," an Australian foreign affairs official said Wednesday.

"Japan must take the lead and free its rice market as a token gesture for solving the agricultural issues," he said.

The Japanese delegation will spend two days in talks with nine Australian ministers and will also meet Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Nakayama: Japan Should Aim Investment at Export

BK0305095891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Canberra, May 3 (AFP)—Japanese investment in Australian manufacturing industries should be aimed at export industries, visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Friday.

"We feel that manufacturing things here should not be only for the Australian market," he told reporters through an interpreter.

"We should like to see exports manufactured by Japanese investments sold abroad," Mr. Nakayama said at the end of a two-day visit. "That type of investment would be an effective way for both of us to contribute to the economic prosperity of this region."

Japan is the largest investor in Australia after Britain and the United States. There has been critisism here that most Japanese investment is aimed at real estate and little is directed towards export or manufacturing sectors.

Minister: Indonesia Not Worried by Alliance

BK0605110191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Canberra, May 6 (AFP)—Australia's defence alliance with Malaysia and Singapore is of no concern to Indonesia despite previous comments by Jakarta to the contrary, Defence Minister Robert Ray said Monday.

Mr. Ray told reporters that during his talks in Jakarta earlier this month with Indonesian Defence Minister Benny Murdani the two had agreed to continuing cooperation between the two countries.

"My discussions with both minister Murdani and President Suharto showed they very much understood our military position as we understood theirs," Mr. Ray said.

Staff officer exchanges and minor exercises will continue, although both sides agreed not to push the pace of improving relations, he said.

Mr. Ray was commenting after returning from a four-nation Southeast Asian tour that took him to Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

Australia has a formal alliance with Malaysia and Singapore under the five powers defence arrangement, signed with New Zealand and Britain in 1970 to guarantee the two Southeast Asian countries' security after British forces withdrew.

Indonesia has repeatedly complained about the alliance.

Mr. Ray said his talks in Malaysia with that country's defence minister had concentrated on the deteriorating relationship between the two countries.

But he refused to disclose what the two men had discussed, saying he would be discussing it with Prime Minister Bob Hawke later this week.

The relationship has cooled over the past three years, with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir complaining publicly about perceived anti-Malaysian bias in the Australian media.

Scientific Research Pact Signed With France

BK0105125191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Canberra, May 1 (AFP)—Two days after successfully proposing a 50-year ban on mining in Antarctica, Australia and France signed Wednesday an agreement to promote scientific research with clearly industrial applications.

The accord shows "that we have the capacity not so much to stop things happening in Antarctica as to do something positive for the benefit of mankind," said Australia's Science and Technology Minister Simon Crean.

"It would be stupid for us to concentrate on Europe, if building Europe would mean building a fence around it," added his French counterpart, Hubert Curien.

"We know that in Australia you have world-class scientists."

The French-Australian industrial research agreement will be administered by a steering committee consisting of research scientists and industrialists, "to get better linkages between the two communities," Mr. Crean told reporters.

It deliberately omits mention of areas of cooperation, but Mr. Crean cited remote sensing and signal processing technology, informatics and telecommunications as fields in which France could provide the industrial expertise and commercial know-how lacking in Australia.

The ministers also discussed recommendations made during a science colloquium in Sydney last month, including high priority for about 30 research projects in marine science, astronomy and astrophysics, informatics and telecommunications, the environment, and Antarctica.

Representatives of 26 countries meeting in Madrid agreed on Monday to a 50-year moratorium on all commercial activity in Antarctica. Once ratified by governments, a unanimous vote would be required to reverse the ban.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said the result followed "an intensive diplomatic campaign pursued by Australia and France."

Mr. Crean said that Franco-Australian co-operation had global significance, and that he and Mr. Curien agreed that research in the pure atmosphere of Antarctica could lead to answers about the greenhouse effect.

The two ministers also signed an agreement to promote research in marine science.

France has three territories in the South Pacific with large exclusive economic zones, and scientists meeting in Sydney proposed co-operation with Australia on 18 specific projects.

(Mr. Curien, who arrived here after accompanying French Prime Minister Michel Rocard to New Zealand, was leaving later for the French territory of New Caledonia for a four-day official visit.

(In addition to various ministerial duties, he is to meet with various political officials and representatives of both separatist and anti-independence parties).

(He will chair Friday a conference on scientific activities in France's Pacific territories and visit a number of scientific and industrial installations).

Fiji

Government Rebuffs Opposition to Labor Reforms

BK0305161791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1559 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Suva, May 3 (AFP)—Fiji's Army commander, Major General [Maj Gen] Sitiveni Rabuka, endorsed Friday government plans to curb the rights of trade unions, which he said had become "too strong."

"Should we allow trade unions to be so strong that they can overcome the government?" he asked a meeting of the Viti Civil Servants Association.

"I support trade unionism but if trade unions are too strong they kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. I am referring to government which provides the life support systems," he said.

Maj. Gen. Rabuka is to relinquish his commander's post to rejoin the cabinet as home affairs minister and deputy premier in July.

However, Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said changes to labour laws were critical."

Ratu Mara, who became prime minister in an interim cabinet after Maj-Gen Rabuka overthrew a trade union-backed government in 1987, said, "Change is inevitable if we are to move with the times."

The government said Thursday it would introduce some measures this year and hold consultations on others.

It will lift the minimum wage order this year to allow employers to pay their own rates.

The Indian-dominated opposition party Friday condemned attempts to cut wages in garment factories "where workers are paid as little as 50 cents an hour."

In a statement Jone Dakuvula, secretary of the Fiji Labour Party-National Federation Party coalition, said the government "must be living in another world if it is ignorant of the appalling worker conditions in Fiji."

Workers at foreign-owned garment factories have held frequent strikes since the government started a tax-free incentive scheme in 1988, one year after Maj-Gen Rabuka's coup.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Josevata Kamikamica insisted that the government would introduce valued added tax (VAT), despite the opposition of local businessmen.

"VAT is part of the interim government's objectives of bringing about economic recovery," he told a two-day economic conference here.

Afzal Khan, secretary of the Fiji Muslim League, said VAT would undermine the government's goal of universal literacy in Fiji by the year 2000.

Fiji Manfacturers Association President Padam Lala said a proposed 10 per cent VAT on imported material would reduce the viability of Fiji's garment industry.

Ratu Mara said a task force would be set up "to examine the extent of poverty in the country," and Mr. Kamikamica said the interim government planned to reduce the military budget significantly from its 34 million Fijian dollars (23.8 million U.S.).

"While it is true, and hardly surprising, that there has been some expansion in military expenditure in recent years, it has not been anything like the magnitude that has been suggested," Ratu Mara said.

New Zealand

Aid To Be Sent to Rebel-Held Bougainville

BK0305141391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Wellington, May 3 (AFP)—New Zealand will donate several tons of relief and reconstruction supplies to the rebel-held Bougainville island in Papua New Guinea, a spokesman for Foreign Minister Don Mckinnon said Friday.

"The supplies include chainsaws, hammers and nails, medical supplies, salt, soap and even 500 pairs of nappies," the spokesman said.

These would be transported to Papua New Guinea by Air Force Hercules early next week.

The spokesman said church organisations would also send a large consignment of clothes, soap and medicine on the plane.

The aid follows a request from Papua New Guinea for supplies and a visit last week to Bougainville by New Zealand High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea John Hayes.

Port Moresby has lifted a blockade on the island after signing a peace agreement with the rebels but the situation is still tense.

Papua New Guinea

Secessionist Army Agrees To Lay Down Arms

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[Text] Port Moresby, May 6 (AFP)—The secessionist Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) has agreed to lay down its arms, a senior Papua New Guinea minister said Monday.

Provincial Affairs Minister Father John Momis said the commitment came from rebel leader Francis Ona, the self-proclaimed president of the "Interim Government of the Republic of Bougainville."

Mr. Ona had written to the Papua New Guinea Government saying both he and BRA Commander Sam Kauona would be prepared to attend talks with Port Moresby officials, possibly within the North Solomons (Bougainville) Province, some time in July.

"We have no problem with that," Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu told a joint news conference here with Fr. Momis and Defence Minister Ben Sabumei.

The reference to the laying down of arms was relayed to the government following a meeting last week between Mr. Ona and Neville Linton, who is here on a fact-finding mission on behalf of the Commonwealth secretariat.

Fr. Momis said Mr. Ona had told Mr. Linton the rebels "now want to abide by the spirit of the Honiara Declaration, to lay down arms, to pursue the question of the restoration of basic services and to get on with the job of reconstruction."

They also asked for the multinational supervisory team proposed under the Honiara Declaration to act as an overseer of the peace.

The Honiara Declaration was hailed, when signed in January in the Solomon Islands capital, as the end of the two-year secessionist war on the copper-rich island.